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Dapat bang limitahan ang daming anak?
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Nearly 300 killed in Paraguay supermarket fire

Sergeant gets life for Baron Cervantes slay

'Jueteng' linked to killing of radioman

Mikoy wants to play role of Angelo

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Palace remark on oil prices irks watchdog

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Abigail L. Mo

Abandoned fetus raises population policy question

By Vick Contreras and TJ Burgonio

Tuesday, August 3, 2004 • 56 pages / vol. 19 / no. 237
www.inq7.net

US sounds alarm on al-Qaida attacks

Bombing targets listed in New York, Washington

NEW YORK—Some of the most powerful symbols of Western capitalism could be the next targets of terror attacks by al-Qaida militants in the United States.

The warning issued by US officials yesterday as they raised the alert levels in Washington and New York after receiving chilling intelligence reports that terrorists linked to Saudi-born militant Osama bin Laden were again aiming for the world's financial heart.

In an unprecedented move, the US government named specific buildings it deemed populated enough to make them potential targets:

• Citigroup buildings and the New York Stock Exchange in New York City, Citigroup, with more than 25,000 employees, is the world's largest financial company and its 70-story building is the third largest in midtown Manhattan.

• The International Monetary Fund and World Bank buildings in Washington. Nearly 10,000 employees work at the two institutions.

• Prudential Financial Inc.'s headquarters in northern New Jersey.

Washington police said they had also beefed up security at the Federal Reserve and Bureau of Engraving.

The IMF and the World Bank have long been the targets of criticism for imposing strict economic measures on developing poor countries, which allegedly lead to further deepen their economic hardships.

Both the IMF and World Bank are located within a few minutes' walk of the White House.

"The current assessment actually would be car or truck bombs," Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge told television audiences in the midst of baseball games and other national gatherings. "We would be a primary source of attack."

The government said the new intelligence indicated the attacks from planning of al-Qaida.

Ridge said the government's threat level for homeland security—one the three states would be raised to orange, or high alert, for

ARLENE Again to play with her 2-year-old conjoined twin Cat Lord Clarence at The Children's Hospital in New York. The twins will undergo a fourth delicate operation to separate them on Wednesday

Conjoined RP boys on brink of separate lives

NEW YORK—If all goes well during a daylong operation on Wednesday, Carl and Clarence Aguayo, 2-year-old twins from the Philippines joined at the top of their heads, will wake up as separate beds.

For the first time, they'll be able to look into each other's faces, and they should soon be able to sit up, stand straight and walk for the first time—as longer the toddlers who couldn't toddle.

"I can't wait to see how they react," said Dr. David Staffenberg, the plastic surgeon on the team that plans to separate the boys at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx. "I can imagine Clarie looking at each other and thinking, 'I know that guy, his how-come he's over there?'"

Since last year, Carl and Clarence have been the focus of a determined effort by their medical, rabbinic agents, as well as two hospitals and a medical team donating their services. The doctors have taken a surgical approach employed only a few times before on conjoined twins, replacing the typical marathon two-day operation with four

divorce procedures over 10 months.

The minor and only the second of their boys—after one year this, even if one makes it through such surgery...but to increase their long-term chances without major complications. Dire relief at story on Page A11

Bill, Staffenberg said, success

Burnham didn't clear AFP, court video shows

By Christine V. Bigueras

A COURT video taken by security cameras tells the real story.

In an unprecedented move said to set the record straight, Brig. Judge Lucilo Palomaya yesterday allowed audiences to view videotaped proceedings which indisputably showed that American missionary Gracia Burnham did not deny the validity of allegations of connection with the Abu Sayyaf.

Department of Justice prosecutors had said she did.

"Only ago (There was really nothing)," Hide Watanabe, Attorney Reyes was bound by the facts contained in the videotaped proceedings the video, which had been taken by a court employee who dabbles in shooting pictures.

Burnham in the videotape did the former American hostage mention anything about the supposed collusion—the forgery that has haunted the military leadership to this day.

Palomaya made the video available to ABS-CBN, GMA 7. The latter aired it. Peter and the Supreme in the wake of confusion triggered by justice officials' pronouncements shortly after Burnham's testimony last Thursday during a special court hearing to Corapi Raping Di-ana in the dock.

The judge also allowed media to listen to a separate audio tape recording of the proceedings.

In the audio tape, in the video, Burnham remained silent while prosecutors told defense lawyers wrangled around her.

In the video, the collusion issue arose when defense lawyer Mirano de Castro asked Burnham during cross-examination: "Do you think there is a tacit connection between the ASP and the ASG?"

Burnham had not even opened her lips when Bill Presscott Betty Mirabile objected, saying the question called for an "opinion."

The video was the evidence also simultaneously raised objections.

The video captured Palomaya

PARTY-LIST SYSTEM

Groups defend pork barrel fund

By Cynthia D. Balana

(last of two parts)

IS THE party-list system in the Philippines a waste of people's money?

Public accountability law watchdog Bayan Muna says no, because its party-list group Partido ng Manggagawa.

Like Iduarte, Maglaslas signed the Bayan Muna complaint but later withdrew his signature. He explained that while he has many reasons against the court workers' right to the Aalbrel Development Fund, the issue becomes partisan and is primarily a pro-

ABRAHAM'S Bosom: Marilo de asa provide much space for party-list lawmakers and cabinet secretaries.

SPECIAL REPORT

Justice Hilario Davide Jr. insisted even Iduarte was one of the congressmen who signed the impeachment complaint. But during the deliberations in the House of Representatives, he was forced to withdraw his signature because his party-list group opposed it.

"That's one reason that I learned—to subordinate my opinion to the party. I should have consulted first with the party. There are various reasons for, I have learned my lesson," Iduarte said.

This kind of discipline separates party-list members of the House from legislators representing congressional districts.

The advocacy of the group should never be diluted, no matter how popular a particular action is, according to Renato Magtubo, representative of the party-list group Partido ng Manggagawa.

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YOSALC. Building people's confidence in government.

ABUSENO: Helping Aleutian Magayon build their dream school.

2 Filipinos among Magsaysay awardees

By Dona Pazzibugan and Madonna T. Virola

PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

ONE IS a prominent lawyer, promoter of fair and public official known for her honesty and vigor; the other is a low-profile volunteer who mobilizes indigenous people, drawn as he is to their spiritual simplicity.

These two Filipinos—Burden Ross, chair of the Philippine Commission on Good Government, and Benjamin Abalos, president of the Bayan Center for Peace and Sustainable Development—are among the seven recipients this year of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards, the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

Ross, for years elected to receive the RMA for government service and Abalos, for management leadership.

The five other "remarkable Asians" are Aung Saw-ung of Cambodia, for public service; Prayong Boonyong of Thailand, for community leadership; Abdelaziz Abu Sayyaf of Bangladesh, for journalism, literature and creative communication arts; Lalung Zamindar Barooah of India and Dai Abdur Rahman of Pakistan, for peace and international understanding.

The 47-year-old RMA Foundation posted the awardees for "their purposeful leadership, unwavering conviction, and extraordinary compassion towards their fellowmen."

The awardees given yearly to individuals or organizations in Asia who "manifest the same sense of selfless service that ruled the life of the late and beloved Filipino leader."

"In a world increasingly burdened by conflict, inequity and cynicism, these remarkable persons are acting boldly and effectively to address critical concerns in ways that inspire collaboration and hope," noted foundation president Carmencita T. Abella.

Since the awards were first given

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2004

WEATHER FORECAST

Second **FRONTPAGE**

Military bares MILF arms delivery

THE COUNTRY'S largest Muslim rebel group has received a large shipment of automatic rifles and ammunition, prompting security officials yesterday to call for a return to their old enemy, not peace talks with the government.

The shipment, the first of four to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), arrived two weeks ago in southern coastal town, a security officials said.

The arms arrival raised doubts over the sincerity of the MILF in pursuing peace talks with the government to end a 30-year-old conflict in south Mindanao island.

"The rebels continue to acquire weapons, recruit and train guerrillas despite the ongoing peace talks," a senior military intelligence officer told Reuters, asking not to be identified.

"We seriously doubt the rebels' sincerity in talking peace with government. They are doing something different from what they are actually saying. "The MILF had received 1,200 automatic rifles and hundreds of thousands of ammunition rounds in two shipments that arrived on July 24 in Palimbang town, Sultan Kudarat province and Kapangan town in Cotabato del Sur province, a senior Department of Defense official said.

The shipments were the first of four planned deliveries this year, he said. The MILF was also trying to acquire several heavy machine guns and mortars, military officials said.

Military officials said they did not know where the shipments had come from. They did not say why they were unable to stop the import of the arms.

The military deployed three battalions along the Lanao coastline a day after the report of delivery of the arms in Kapangan, but found no trace of the weapons.

Benjie Mekimbang, head of the rebels' ceasefire panel, said the MILF did not know of any arms shipment and called the military report "unsubstantiated."

"That's a very serious violation of the ceasefire agreement," he told Reuters. "We will not resume any activities that may disrupt the peace process. That will not happen."

Rhy Derkson Hontosas, who also is the government's ceasefire panel, said the report would be investigated by both sides.

"We had declarations about the incidents and these places will be among those to be inspected this month by the ceasefire panels of both sides," he said.

The panels have policed a year-long ceasefire in the conflict between the government and the MILF, which is fighting for independence for Muslim areas and publicly rejects terrorism.

Several issues stand in the way of a resumption of formal peace talks brokered by Malaysia, analysts say. These include the MILF's shelving more than of regional national group demands (observers).

Last week, the MILF agreed to open some of its bases to join inspections with government forces looking for 3 militants. Reuters

Miriam gets foreign relations committee; Joker keeps Blue Ribbon

Roxas chairs trade; Gordon, tourism; Revilla, public works; Lapid, local government

By Christine O. Avendaño

SEN. MIRIAM Defensor-Santiago is getting the chairmanship of the committee on foreign relations, sending her alliance with the majority to the brink, at least for now.

Santiago's committee assignment came after the 14 members of Senate majority met for three hours yesterday to finalize the chairmanships of all the 36 Senate committees.

But the senators emerged from the meeting after having resolved the leadership of only 23 committees, according to Senate President Franklin Drilon.

Santiago was a no-show as the lawmakers met in executive session, but Drilon said that she had "delegated to Sen. Manuel Villar [the job of] relaying her position to the majority."

Drilon said Villar told the meeting that Santiago had proposed that the Senate committee on foreign relations, which was headed by Villar himself.

"Manny Villar has agreed to cede that committee to Senator Santiago," Drilon announced in the news conference after the caucus.

Asked if Santiago's new assignment means she was aligning herself with the majority, Drilon quoted Villar and Majority Leader Sen. Francis Pangilinan as saying that Santiago was working with the majority.

With the latest Senate assignments, Villar would still get the chairmanship of the Senate committee as well as the committees on public order and illegal drugs.

Pangilinan, for his part, will get the chairmanship of the Blue Ribbon committee and the public services committee.

Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan will still head the committee on rules, while Sen. Ralph Recto retains the committee on ways and means.

On the other hand, Senate President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier now chairs the committee on education, arts and culture, while Sen. Pia Cayetano got the chairmanship of the committee on health and demographic as well as on the environment and natural resources.

Also getting two chairmanships were neophyte Senators Mar Roxas (trade and commerce as well as economic affairs), Richard Gordon (tourism and government corporations and public enterprises), Ramon Revilla Jr. (public works as well as labor, employment and human resources) and Edu Lapid (games and amusements as well as local government).

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay heads the committee on agriculture and food, while Sen. Rodolfo Biazon heads the committee on national defense as well as on housing.

Drilon said the Senate majority would maintain its dominant chairmanship of the 13 remaining committees, which would go to majority senators who head a single committee or less.

But the Senate president said that of the 36 committees, the majority would give "at least one" to the minority.

"It is matter of principle, the majority has agreed to share the burden of the Senate work by offering the opposition chairmanships of the remaining committees," Drilon said.

"That's a very serious violation of the ceasefire agreement," he told Reuters. "We will not resume any activities that may disrupt the peace process. That will not happen."

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Last week, the MILF agreed to open some of its bases to join inspections with government forces looking for 3 militants. Reuters

DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO. A picture of a happy senator but a no-show on the lawmakers meeting. INQUIRER

VILLAR joins foreign relations, keeps finance

ARROYO retains public services

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New House power bloc gets 40% of committees

By Carlito Pablo

THE NEW power bloc in the House of Representatives comprising of the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) and the Liberal Party (LP) is getting 40 percent of the committee chairmanships in the 14th Congress.

But instead Kampi president Rep. Rodolfo Pinto Gardiner, Arroyo's ally, is reportedly being described as the caretaker of Congress or the "shadow Speaker," isn't getting any of the posts.

"We'll just be on the sidelines," said Pinto, one of the political strategists of President Macapagal-Arroyo during the May 10 elections.

Pinto added in statement on his informal appointment as caretaker Speaker, Prime Gaughen and said: "Kabalikat ako (That's kabalikat."

"It's a political intrigue coming from the other side," he said, without identifying the "other side."

Pinto said it was normal for Kampi congressmen to regularly consult with him because of the ongoing reorganization in the House, particularly the disentanglement of committees.

"But when the work starts, these congressmen will develop their own orientations," he said. "I'm not their boss," he added.

In a separate interview, Kampi spokesperson Rep. Anthony Miranda 4th dist., Sultekit said the Kampi and the LP would be dividing between the two parties the chairmanship of 28 of the 44 regular and special committees in the House.

Miranda said that Kampi would also get its share of chairmanships in the Commission on Appointments and one to the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal.

Among the committees Kampi will get are two sensitive ones—national defense and public order.

In separate interviews, LP cohort Sup. Rep. Juan Miro (2nd dist., Pangasinan) and Liberals would get, among others, the committees on public works, trade, cultural minorities, and energy.

"The Liberal Party wants to see to it that it plays a vital role in the 14th Congress," Miro said.

Earlier, Miro had defended the "second-class" treatment the LP had gotten from Lakas in their alliance in the previous 13th Congress.

The LP recently entered into an alliance with Kampi after members of the former party expressed dissatisfaction with the terms of their coalition with the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats (Lakas-CMD) party in the Speaker-slot determination.

Kampi and the LP, however, remain part of the dominant Southern 4 Coalition in the House which includes Lakas, the Nacionalista People's Coalition, the Nacionalista Party and majority of the party-list representatives.

Before the opening of the 14th Congress, the Kampi-LP bloc claimed it had 108 members, or 10 members short of electing a new Speaker.

Mike A files 2 more libel cases

By Terry V. Quismundo

A DAY before he and his wife were to mark their 36th wedding anniversary, Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesman Ignacio Bunye filed two new libel cases against the editor of the Manila City Prosecutor's Office yesterday.

Arroyo filed libel charges against Inq7.net columnist William Esposo and publisher Amando M. Doronila and reporter Bonnie Golong of the broadsheet Malaya.

The lawsuits seek for P11 million each.

"He is not in this for the money. His a simple to vindicate his honor," said Arroyo's lawyer, Bro. Alberto Bendaño.

Arroyo cited Esposo over his column High Ground that came out on July 5 with the title, "How do you solve a problem like Mike arroyo?"

In the column, which was posted on Inq7.net, a news website of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and GMA Network, Esposo called Arroyo the "single biggest liability" and the "greatest threat" to his wife President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration.

In Bunye's case, his July 9 column "Buruwera Ganun" that came out in Malaya under the title, "First couple's idea of charity," appeared to Arroyo to be insidious since it allegedly painted his character as a bad husband.

"Mike Arroyo is trying to build a name for sharing," wrote Bunyeen. "Politicians are the most charitable people on this planet while they are campaigning. After they win, they become night. Board, and the money may not even be theirs."

Bunyeen is also among the respondents in the five libel cases Arroyo filed in June against politicians, editors and reporters who had tagged him in election fraud and corruption.

ESTRADA

Erap needs Swiss trip for bad knee soon, says Loi

By Christine O. Avendaño

LAWYERS of Joseph Estrada plan to ask the Sandiganbayan to allow the deposed president to undergo medical treatment in Switzerland for his bad knee, according to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

Commenting on her husband's current condition, Estrada told Senate reporters yesterday that her husband was taking pain medications and was in constant need for a knee operation.

"He's taking painkillers three times a day. He needs this operation as soon as possible," she said (emphasis...

She said her husband needs the operation soon because he is getting on in years. Estrada is 67.

Since the former president has no visa to enter the United States where he had originally planned to have the operation, the senator said the family is trying to have the surgery done in Switzerland.

She said that Dr. Christopher Jordan, Estrada's doctor based in California, would extract her husband's patellar bone.

US-LED COALITION OF THE WILLING

Are we in, or are we out? Palace not sure

By Julie Lilaog Javellana

ARE WE, or aren't we?

Even Malacañang is finding it difficult to say if the Philippines is still a member of the United States-led Coalition of the Willing.

"We are an active member of the fight against terror," was all presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye would say when asked if the Philippines was still a coalition member despite its controversial withdrawal from Iraq last month to save the life of Filipino hostage Angelo de la Cruz.

Bunye also would not categorically confirm or deny a reported statement by Secretary of State Colin Powell that the US no longer considered the Philippines part of the international coalition that backed the war against Iraq.

Powell supposedly made the statement in a recent interview on an Arabic television network. Bunye saw no need for the Department of Foreign Affairs to verify the authenticity of Powell's statement.

"Well, we have been very cooperative in our stand against terrorism and you will note that we have registered significant gains, especially in the last few weeks, in the last few days, and we will continue to be an active person fighting terrorism in this part of the world," was Bunye's reply.

He issued a statement saying the government's resolve to fight terrorism had not wavered despite the pullout from Iraq.

"Our commitment to the campaign against international terrorism is firm. The gains we continue to achieve in the anti-terrorism campaign is a result of the vigilance of Filipinos, our alliances with other nations and our strategic partnership with the United States," he said.

In a press briefing, Bunye said the government would continue to "cooperate with our neighbors regionally and internationally and, definitely, we expect to kick the problem of terrorism."

Asked if the fight would continue even if the Philippines was no longer a coalition member, Bunye said: "Our resolve against terrorism is very firm, we will work toward the elimination ... of the terrorist threat in our jurisdiction."

But he did not want to say the government could not care less about the US sentiments.

"That's putting words in my mouth but we are saying that we will fight terrorism the best way we can, the best way we know how."

Bunye also disagreed with the reported assessment by Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations Lauro Baja that the country's pullout from Iraq had negative repercussions on its standing with the US and other countries.

"I do not have that same impression. My understanding is that our relationship with our allies and our strategic partners will remain strong," he said.

Bunye expressed confidence the controversy would have no effect on the designation of the Philippines as a major non-NATO ally of the US.

President George W. Bush conferred the status on the Philippines as a goodwill gesture during Ms Arroyo's state visit to Washington in 2003. It supposedly gave the Philippines priority and greater access to US military aid.

Malacañang had acknowledged the withdrawal of the Philippine 51-man humanitarian contingent from Iraq one month before schedule had strained relations with the US.

Bunye said last week that it was time to move on and the government wanted to resume normal relations with the US as soon as possible.

But the government has not disclosed the specific steps it was taking to repair diplomatic relations.

On the contrary, Ms Arroyo has not appointed a new ambassador to Washington, after the departure of Ambassador Alberto del Rosario whose term of duty ended last month.

UNITED States Army trainer Sergeant First Class Ta Lee shows instructions to Filipino soldiers during training inside a military camp in Zamboanga City Monday. Around 40 US Army trainers are here to train 1,200 Filipino soldiers in various maneuvers and tactics over the next six weeks to enhance Philippine military's capability to fight terrorism. AFP

Court junks media giant's TRO bid vs ex-employees

By Edson Cuaresma Tandoc Jr.

THEY could hear a sigh of relief...Lee soon.

The three former ABS-CBN employees facing suits from the media giant could continue working with ABC5 while their cases are being heard in court, a Quezon City judge ruled last week.

Regional Trial Court Branch 219 Judge Ulderic Lopez dismissed ABS-CBN's petition for a temporary restraining order against former ABS-CBN employees Eduardo Lingao, Anne Francis Torres and Jude Joy Llanderal.

The three used to work for the ABS-CBN program, "The Correspondents" until they resigned on April and moved to ABC5.

However, the court will not issue the P20 million suit ABS-CBN had filed against them.

ABS-CBN had said in their complaint that Lingao, Lopez and Torres caused the network "exemplary damages, loss of revenues, [and] loss of trade secrets," when they went to work for the rival channel.

In his decision dated July 26, Lopez said ABS-CBN "failed to convincingly address the urgency with which the issuance of a TRO should be founded."

He added that while the network claimed Lingao, Lopez and Torres would divulge trade secrets to ABC5, it had not proved that revelations had been made.

The Lopez-owned network had said that based on their contracts, Lingao, Lopez and Torres should not do anything "prejudicial to the interests of ABS-CBN" for a period of one year after leaving the company.

"What ABS-CBN is saying is that if we won't be journalists for ABS-CBN, we have no right to be journalists at all," Lingao said in a statement.

The three have filed a P2.5 million countersuit against their former employer for allegedly harassing them to quit their new jobs.

"All we want is for them to just leave us alone," Lopez also told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

He added they were also wondering why ABS-CBN was going after them when many other ABS-CBN talents had also moved to ABC5.

NEWSBRIEFS

Iloilo drug dealer arrested

MP3 EMCEE and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday announced the arrest of a Chinese drug dealer operating in southern Metro Manila.

Reyes identified the suspect as Yin Zhi Liang, alias Joseph Ong and Jensen Cheng. He said Yin, a native of Fujian, China, was arrested by agents of the Philippine National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force led by director Gilberto Ajoloay.

Two titles of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu, $3,000, some Chinese currency and two cellular phones were seized from the suspects, Reyes said.

Ajoloay, in a press conference, said Yin came to as a tourist last February and resided at 1 Yellow Bell, Bravo Village, Malolos. He said an unidentified cabo tipped off the police about the suspect's illegal activities. **Aurea P. Flores**

3 cops face dismissal for extortion

TWO policemen who were arrested for extortion on Saturday inside the Taguig police station were recommended for summary dismissal from the service by Interior Secretary Angelo T. Reyes yesterday.

Reyes identified the policemen as SPO1 Antony Cole, 41, and PO2 Rene Cala, 30, both members of the Taguig police force. He said the two were caught while in the act of receiving P30,000 in P500 marked bills inside the police station.

He said three other policemen—Insp. Nicanor Lorenzo, SPO2 Benjamin Paynos and PO2 Rolito Arcilla—are being sought to stand trial in the matter.

The two policemen together with their booked and Angelo Dalabo were arrested by member of the PNP's Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force after receiving marked money from complainants Hubby Santos Jr. and his son Rolando Jr.

PNP Deputy Director General Edgardo Aglipay said Santos Sr. was arrested by the suspects on trumped-up charges last Saturday. He said the suspects demanded P30,000 from the victim.

"The victim managed to reduce the amount to only P20,000," Aglipay said.

Aglipay said charges of robbery-extortion, violation of blackmail, damage to property and resisting arrest were filed against the suspects. **Delmar Reyes**

Drug tests for gov't workers

THE Dangerous Drugs Board is set to conduct drug tests on all government personnel nationwide.

Dr. Rodolfo Garcia, DDB Deputy Executive Director, said the move is part of the government's intensified campaign against illegal drugs. He said those who will be found positive or illegal drugs will be dismissed and rehabilitated.

Garcia said that the DDB expects the local government units to positively shoulder the expense of the drug testing which is "quite expensive." He said that the drug testing activities aren't to be announced to protect the integrity of the process.

"The drug testing will come as a surprise," Garcia said.

Meet set to discuss fight vs TB

THE country's largest anti-TB organization, the Philippine Coalition Against Tuberculosis or PhilCAT, will hold its annual convention on Aug. 31 to 01 at the Lotus Orange Garden Hotel. This year's theme, "TB Control—Breakthroughs, Best Practices, Forging Partnerships" will showcase the country's efforts to eliminate TB as well as mention the network of organizations to fight the disease from different levels.

Speakers include the country's topmost pulmonary and infectious disease experts. Guest of honor will be Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit.

Worth noting that Dr. Lee Reichman, the Philippine Coalition Against Tuberculosis Inc. PhilCAT, will talk on updates on global TB drugs development. Dr. Lee Reichman, executive director, New Jersey Medical School, Newark, El Center, and director, Health Organization Medical Officer for the Philippines Dr. Michael Vitoria will speak on the latest updates in the global TB control. **Ma. Cristina Cabatingan**

For details, call 927 6951 to 52, 924 2951 to 53, or send email to philcoalitionmembers@yahoo.com, or philcat@pacific.net.ph.

Iraq ban to cost gov't ₱5.7B

By Marvin R Mardi

THE GOVERNMENT stands to lose ₱5,82.48 million, or ₱5.7 billion, in potential remittances if the ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to Iraq—which is covered by being reviewed—is not lifted.

The figure is based on the missing numbers of pending job offers and the minimum monthly basic salaries of the workers—of an average of $700 per worker—over a two-year period, which is the usual length of a foreign contract.

According to Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) data, there are 6,000 pending job orders for Iraq which have not been filled since the ban on the deployment of workers to that war-torn country was imposed.

The ban on the deployment of workers to Iraq was first imposed in April when a Filipino truck driver was killed in an ambush. It was lifted on July 1 but was reimposed a few weeks later after another truck driver, Angelo de la Cruz, was abducted and threatened with beheading.

The ban, according to POEA Administrator Rosalinda Baldoz, will be reviewed by Department of Labor and Employment officials in consultation with Special Envoy to the Middle East Roy Cimatu.

"We've checked with (Cimatu) but he's still in the province. I'll be arriving today, we can discuss it," said Baldoz yesterday.

Baldoz said the "critical" factor in any decision on the Filipino workers' deployment to Iraq would be security.

This was echoed by Labor Undersecretary Benito Cruz, head of the DOLE's employment cluster.

"More than the potential income, our priority is the safety of our workers. We will make our decision based not on possible income and remittances (but on) the information Cimatu will give us," Cruz told reporters.

Baldoz said that with the 6,000 pending job orders, the number of Filipino workers in Iraq would rise to 13,000 if the ban is lifted.

The number of Filipino workers currently employed in Iraq has remained at some 4,000.

In the first imposition of the ban, which lasted about two months, two foreign employers—Dynacorp International and Hyundai Engineering Construction Co.—withdrew their job orders while other firms that had sought Filipino employees recruited workers from India and Nepal.

Bukidnon lawmaker gets Yale fellowship

By Carlito Pablo

MALAYBALAY City, Bukidnon—Rep. Teresa Acosta has been awarded a fully funded fellowship for 2004, making her the first Filipino lawmaker to be awarded the honor by the prestigious Yale University in Connecticut, USA.

Each year, Yale "brings 16 to 18 emerging leaders of diverse backgrounds and nationalities... to study critical issues facing the global community" according to a statement issued by Alan Lysle of the World Fellows Program.

Acosta, 38, a member of the House of Representatives from Bukidnon's 2nd District, is the 16th Filipino to be awarded the Edward M. Bronfman Fellowship in the Arts at the Philippines' 1995.

ACOSTA

One of the youngest members of the 12th Congress, Acosta holds a doctorate degree in economics from Vrije Universiteit Brussel's Free University.

Acosta is also known for her non-profit advocacies like the replication of the Grameen Bank model of Bangladesh in Bukidnon.

Acosta's deadly water issues occurred in setting up the Bukidnon Integrated Development Authority (BIDA), which he personally described as a non-collateral bank for the poor.

Acosta earlier said her field is already the biggest Grameen Bank replication in Mindanao, serving some 7,500 people in need of credit for livelihood programs.

Acosta won his third term as representative of the first district of Bukidnon in the May 10 elections.

An official Yale University statement quoted university president Richard Levin as saying that in just three years, the World Fellowship Program has assembled leaders from more than 40 countries.

"The university is sure to benefit immeasurably from the perspectives these leaders bring to campus, and from the relationships they have built between Yale and their home countries," Levin said.

Daniel Esty, a professor of environment law and policy at Yale, said that the program is "designed to give some of the most promising mid-career leaders in the world (only) a rare opportunity to learn from each other."

The program, which is a seminar on global issues, covers 16 weeks of intensive study between September and December.

Audit of P3.3T debt urged in Congress

A LAWMAKER yesterday called for a congressional audit of the country's gargantuan ₱3.3-trillion debt as of the end of 2003 to determine which loans to honor, renounce or repudiate.

Rep. Eduardo Joselito Ledesma, Pantaleon Alvarez's colleague from Davao del Norte, said the move has put the nation in a vicious cycle of poverty and debt, with 40 percent of the annual budget going to debt servicing.

"Imagine, if we use only some 30 percent of the debt service cost, that would mean 700,000 more pesos," Ledesma said in a privilege speech.

The non-government Freedom from Debt Coalition immediately welcomed the Ledesma initiative, saying it's "not only timely and urgent but also practical and doable."

"The debt audit must cover the larger political, social, economic and environmental impacts (cash loan and project financed by those loans," the FDC said in a statement. Carlito Pablo

Australia 'no friend'—Angara

By Christine O. Avendaño

QUESTION: When is a friend not a friend?

Answer: When it calls you a marshmallow and wears your brain unkindly.

Sen. Edgardo Angara yesterday said that Australia "was no friend" of the Philippines following Canberra's severe criticism of Manila's decision to pull its 51 man humanitarian contingent out of Iraq last month.

Taking the Senate floor yesterday Angara went further and denounced Australia for being an "unfair trader" to the Philippines.

He said that for the past 15 years, Australia had excluded Philippine fruits from its shores.

"We have been trying to sell our mangoes, bananas and pineapples to them and, somehow, for the past 15 years, they have been finding one pest after another [in the fruits]," Angara said.

He said that Australia continued to ban the pest issue even after Manila had demonstrated that its fruits were pest free.

"Australia has been an unfair trader with the Philippines and their character just shows. If they were really our friends, why would they make a comment like that (marshmallow) about the Filipinos?" he said.

Angara said he did not agree with the government's pullout of its troops from Iraq, but he "would not condone or tolerate foreigners telling us (but what we did was wrong, and in unparliamentary and vulgar terms."

Earlier, Angara told reporters that he would support calls to impose trade sanctions against Australia in retaliation for Foreign Minister Alexander Downer's calling the Philippines a "marshmallow" for its decision to pull its troops out of Baghdad to save the life of Filipino truck driver Angelo de la Cruz.

In a similar front, Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. said in a statement that Australia should stop meddling in the country's affairs and instead "respect our decision on the pullout. It must learn to accept it and deal with it."

Corrections

IN THE July 31 issue, an article in the Elan section—"Documenting Art, Rekindling Friendship"—not singly identified the author who painted the role of Yum. The role was played by Jaime del Mundo, not Miguel Rustmann.

* * *

IN THE same issue, another Elan article—"Heaven is Simplicity"—misstated the location of the Big Mutia Inn from its Cavite. The Inn is situated at Km 47 of the Aguinaldo Highway in Silang, not Alfonso town.

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a front-page article misstated the first name of the Lucena City radio commentator who was ambushed and killed in San Nicolas, Boom North, on Saturday. The correct name of the commentator is Roger—not Robert—Mariano.

* * *

Reader's may send their requests for corrections of factual errors involving Inquirer News, Lifestyle, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PCI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Makati-Pasig Circle, Makati City; fax this 893-8703; e-mail cyber@inquirer.com.ph; or call Reader's Advocate Ma. Lourdes Montinola at 896-6000 local 3306.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Pangalangan, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers or those of the city editor, news chief and/or managing editor.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, August 3, 2004
18th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22
Gospel: Mt 14:22-36

After the crowds have eaten their fill, Jesus obliged his disciples to get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, while he sent the crowd away.

And having sent the people away, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. At nightfall, he was there alone. Meanwhile, the boat was now far from land, dangerously rocked by the waves for the wind was against it.

At daybreak, Jesus came to them walking on the lake. When they saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, thinking that it was a ghost. And they cried out in fear. But at once Jesus said to them, "Courage! Don't be afraid. It's me!" Peter answered, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you walking on the water."

Jesus said in turn, "Come." And Peter got out of the boat, walking on the water to go to Jesus. But, in face of the strong wind, he was afraid and began to sink. So he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately stretched out his hand and took hold of him, saying, "Man of little faith, why did you doubt?"

As they got into the boat, the wind dropped. Then those in the boat bowed down before Jesus saying, "Truly you are the Son of God!"

They came ashore at Gennesaret. The local people recognized Jesus and spread the news throughout the region. So they brought all the sick to him, begging him to let them touch just the fringe of his cloak. All who touched it became perfectly well.

Commentary:

Here too, of course, everything outdoes everything else. As God enters the sea (Ps 76:16), Jesus calms the waves and walks on the water. As God rescued the people by leading "a path through the mighty waters" (Is 43:16), Jesus' actions once the water is rescued is a salvation. Peter's reaction is also significant. At heart, God said to a people of little faith, "It is I who am with you. Do not fear; I will help you" (41:10, 13). Here Jesus says, "It is I; do not be afraid."

Today we have no Jesus down from whom we can touch, but in the earlier Christian times were instantly self-evident. They had a whole symbolic world through which to interpret the actions of Jesus, and as they recognized him as "the one who was to come." Most of us today do not inhabit that symbolic world; we even live outside the symbolic world of our own culture, for only that of Hollywood, football, the scandals in the newspapers, and advertisements... Through the print and electronic media we have some access to the world's cultures (and to our own) that only previous generations had, but we seem to access it all only as information; it doesn't penetrate or change us.

Against this, we have the assurance that the word of God cannot return empty. "As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it be big [and] sprout, providing seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it" (Is 55:10-11).

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Mikey also wants to play Angelo de la Cruz

ARROYO

DE LA CRUZ

By Tonette Orejas
PEP Central Luzon Desk

MEXICO, Pampanga—Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo wants to play the role of Angelo de la Cruz in a movie about the 17-day ordeal of the former overseas contract worker in the hands of Iraqi terrorists.

Mikey, the eldest son of President Maria Macapagal-Arroyo, on Thursday sent his chief of staff and a representative of his movie production to Barangay Bacolor in this town for preliminary talks with De la Cruz on the film project.

The forum over the son of movie producer Bert Flamtiaco talking with De la Cruz here last Thursday. The young congressman said De la Cruz's story should be made into the kind of movies Filipinos want to see.

"I have not yet committed (my life story) to any movie company," said De la Cruz. But he said that if anyone would be done about his ordeal, he would like it to center on the predicament and welfare of overseas Filipino workers.

De la Cruz clarified that the President had not asked him to entertain him to grant her son the rights to do the true-to-life movie.

Interviewed by phone, Rep. Arroyo said, "Nothing to final yet. I don't want to be presumptuous, but it will be an honor and a privilege to portray a man who became a rallying point of the administration's campaign policy."

He said the policy was anchored on the principle of "Filipino first."

As the Ombudsman stopped pursuing the life of a fellow Filipino and a hahaha (governor mate), she also earned eminence from the United States Australia and Iraq.

The congressman said he had no plan to make the movie a movie as it might give him his "most serious" role, he said.

He said he was in no rush to do the movie, adding that legislative work in Congress, mainly his studies on the proposed car manufacturing and the neo-child policy, was occupying much of his time now.

He said he was opposed to the neo-child policy because it is an early age, and that since Kuya has been singing since she was 7.

But Paolo himself admits, "It wasn't until after I was in the play[The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe] that I realized I enjoyed acting and singing. But I've always preferred to be the behind-the-scenes guy."

Show Time

Paolo played the lead role of Jesse in Rampet Playboy's musical play-of-the-year-to-be-remembered. This led to his being cast in another play, "Look," as well as in guest appearances in several sitcoms, such as "Singing Inc" and "Bida si Mister, Bida si Misis."

But the 18-year-old actor and comedienne model insists he's aiming for full-on goals. What he really wants to be is a filmmaker.

"I need to major in literature but I wanted to be a film director, so I went into Mass Media," he says. "I like films. I've always liked films. When I watch movies, I focus more on the visuals.

"I want to start with commercials to get my footing as a director. It's its easier approach. Then I'll venture into film."

A sophomore at the De La Salle University, Paolo says he's learning his craft and has even acted his hand at directing.

"Last school, I was asked to make a video to promote La Salle," he relates. "My mother said, 'You want to be a director, right? This is your chance to do it.'

"They showed the samples of several videos. Any gigantic? Anyways, I had this idea and called my dad. I made my brother dance, and I decided to shoot it as a silhouette while my father sang. My friends thought it was really good when they saw it. I got a grade of 4 for that."

Paolo says he is a fan of Steven Spielberg and Quentin Tarantino but he also watches and appreciates good Filipino films. "I watched 'Crying Ladies,'" he says. "I thought it was really good and I liked it. Gallog."

Gary V.'s reunion it can't have to choose between his studies and his show biz career. He

HIS FATHER'S SON: He's grateful that Bert P. is supporting and singing talents have rubbed off on him.

FATHERLY ADVICE: When it comes to girls, Paolo talks with his dad, Gary V.

Paolo V: Pain is an inspiration

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Conjoined RP boys on brink of separate lives

From page A1

was "very far from a done deal. There's him/her could go wrong."

In previous operations, the boys' skull was opened, their separate but touching brains carefully pushed apart and most of their shared blood vessels cut and divided.

Dr. James Goodrich, the lead surgeon, said magnetic resonance imaging showed the two were had nearly equal, thriving circulation systems. What had been dominant veins on Carl's side have plumped up and assumed the duties of veins on Clarence's side that had been doing the circulation work for both boys.

Alarmingly delicate

Like previous operations, the fourth one on Wednesday will be alarmingly delicate.

Goodrich and Stadtheberg will cut through skin and bone to open a window on the brains and the surrounding blood vessels. The major vein the boys still share will be cut and divided.

"The last area where the brains are touching—about an inch and a half across—still has mixed apart while doctors keep a sharp eye out for any connecting veins.

"If you just say 'We're done,' and yank them apart, you wind up with a lot of bleeding and all these strokes, which is an issue we've been trying so hard to avoid," Stadtheberg said.

It's difficult work, even with the help of magnifiers. The surgeons have described the tiny veins as having "the consistency of wet toilet paper."

The team will check for excessive bleeding or swelling before deciding whether to continue with the separation. "There's always another day," Goodrich said.

Once the decision is made to go ahead, the last of the connecting skull bone, including a large portion that "flows out to the wrong direction," will be removed, Stadtheberg said.

The boys' head-to-head cables can then be moved apart to give the doctors more room.

Brain membrane

Stadtheberg will then have to reconstruct the dura mater, a membrane that covers the brain. Though the boys have separate brains, they shared the membrane, and extra material will be needed to cover both brains. It could come from the boys' soft-tissue or a cosmetically available substitute.

"The class it the layer that keeps the cerebral spinal fluid in around the brain," Stadtheberg said. "You don't want that leaking."

The next step is to "wash everything out and then start closing the skin," Stadtheberg said. He will leave the reconstruction of the skulls—a major process—for later.

"I had to be sure in designing [the procedure] that their hair was not going to be growing in the right direction," Stadtheberg said. "I didn't want them to have those big cowlicks."

For a Pershing crack, Stadtheberg said, "I made the suggestion that we put them back into Pinkies caps. This is the Bronx." He wasn't sure the hospital would go for it, he said.

Arlene Aguirre brought her two boys to New York from the Philippines last September and lives with them at the Ronald McDonald Children's House in Valhalla between surgeries at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore.

She has chosen not to be in the operating room, but will get regular updates during the surgery.

Aguirre declined to be interviewed on the operation approached, "I am worried but I am hoping," she said last month.

Assessing surgery

Goodrich said the boys would have to be watched for months before the surgery could be fully assessed.

"We'll know a lot on Day One just by how the procedure goes," he explained. "If we get through this case without a lot of swelling, without a lot of bleeding, then I can make a very good prognostic outcome. Long term, there's the danger of infection, meningitis, spinal fluid leaks."

Stadtheberg said both boys would need a great deal more of the occupational and physical therapy that they had been getting at Hyderdale.

Goodrich said he had learned to "distance myself from the personalities," but added, "There's no way to avoid getting caught up in Carl and Clarence's case and their mom. It's human nature."

Said Stadtheberg: "I want to deliver for these little guys." AP

Past surgery results dismaying, says doc

NEW YORK—Conjoined twins, formerly called Siamese twins, occur once in approximately 200,000 live births, according to the Montefiore Medical Center.

Conjoined twins are formed when a fertilized egg begins to divide into twins, but the division is not completed.

Craniopagus twins, joined at the head like Carl and Clarence Aguirre, make up just 2 percent of conjoined twins.

Dr. James Goodrich, leader of the Montefiore team planning to separate the Aguirre boys on Wednesday, said that until recently the results of separation surgery in cases like theirs had been "dismaying."

"Historically, both children died," he said. "Then we got to the point where one child lived and the other child was sacrificed. Within the last 14 years we've been able to get both children to survive, and that was considered the worst-case scenario—to save one child dying OR and the other to deteriorate."

According to Goodrich, there have been three recent cases in which the separation was done gradually, as it is being done with the Aguirre twins.

All six twins have survived, but never have both twins come through without significant problems, he said.

Goodrich said he knew of no case where twins connected like Carl and Clarence had emerged into "viable, independent lives," the stated goal in the Aguirre case. AP

Abandoned fetus raises population policy question

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From page A1

Robert Reyes.

The fetal, believed to be "6 to 7 months old," was inside a blue paper shopping bag left behind by a young woman who had entered the church at around 8:45 a.m., Reyes told the Inquirer, quoting an eyewitness.

Reyes said the woman was described as in her early 20's and wearing a white T-shirt and shorts. She was first spotted by the parish clerk Linda Jesus, the priest added. Jesus, on her way out in her something, saw the woman "kneel" in one of the pews, placing the bag on the floor in front of her.

Returning about 30 minutes later, Jesus then saw other churchgoers in a "commotion" and pushing the bag on the floor, Reyes said. The mysterious woman had gone.

In the "morning prior," a staunch pro-life advocate, the disturbing incident, while no longer unusual, illustrated the kind of mind-set that could be spawned by population control measures that "subordinate life under the seemingly higher values of economics."

Reyes warned that more "unwanted" babies would be abandoned by "increasingly confused, misguided and deeply troubled women [because of] an exaggerated fear motivated purely by economic factors."

He later said in a statement: "Today we debate the two-child policy. Couldn't this be a message and challenge of this abandoned baby in Project 4?"

The controversial House bill, recently filed by Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, allows "incentives" to couples who would have two children or less.

Blind Reproductive Health Act of 2004, the proposed measure seeks to arrest the country's high birth rate, considered a major impediment to economic growth. The Philippine population is currently pegged at 84 million and growing at a rate of 2.36 percent a year.

"Before we pursue the issue any further, let us pause and consider certain glaring realities," Reyes reiterated. "Many unwanted and so-called unwanted pregnancies happen among poor women.

He lamented that many other sectors were to blame for the problem, for instance: "How about the media, especially entertainment [media] which, in many graphic or subtle way, sell sex and use it to sell other products?"

The issue in the church was a "persistently born baby—he's very thin, but he might have survived" — Reyes said, citing the examination conducted by PO3 Juan Meriel, responding police officer from Camp Sarmiento. Quoting the officer, the priest added: "The child rarely must have been born alive."

Reyes declared that the woman who left the bag with the fetal was the mother. "The baby was still warm," he explained. "At most have been born not too long ago. And the mother is probably going through the pangs of guilt."

NEWS

Brushed by the heavens here so, the day the priest said he "prayed over" and "blessed" the fetus before it was brought in the Holy Angels Funeral Homes in San Antonio, Rizal.

Standing on "gulgurenes" were village chair Andy Abando of Barangay Marilag, and Jesus, the cook, who "wished the [abandoned] child had just been given to her."

As Abando's suggestion, Reyes said, "we cannot be lady angels."

'Quick fix'

The proposed policy is drawing strong objections from Church leaders, too.

Lagman's bill has triggered proposals to enforce a five-year moratorium on child-bearing and calls for the use of contraceptives.

Archbishop Oscar F. Cruz yesterday branded these as "quick-fix reactions."

The outspoken archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan said in a statement: "Population is cast again considered as the culprit [that causes] the social ills in the country. Children are considered [mere] mouths to feed, bodies to clothe and to house. Behold the quick-fix response: Depopulate!"

He said the problem was that while the legacy of "these palliatives" were the millions, the perpetrate "have already been born."

"Those who want to deny life to others are already counted among the living. Those who do not exist have conscientious objectors themselves," Cruz pointed out.

Bishop Nolando Tesoro of Infanta, Quezon, said the government should not devise ways but give parents a free hand to decide since the number of children they would have.

He said reporters: "Other than telling them] 'Do not go beyond two,' parents should be taught how to be caring and responsible. If you give numbers, you limit them. It's better to emphasize ideals, principles and let them decide."

Tesoro, chair of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' youth commission, spoke at the launching of "Ka-Ugnayan" a directory for the Catholic Youth Ministry in the Philippines, at the San Carlos Seminary along Edsa in Makati City yesterday afternoon.

The two prelates reiterated the Church's stand, which advocates natural methods of contraception.

Cruz warned: "Unless nature and its eco-fights back." Inquirer

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3 colonels linked to Poe groups cleared

By Alcuin Papa

THREE colonels accused of recruiting military reservists to mass actions in support of then opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. last February have been exonerated by the military leadership.

The three are Col. Jesse Andres, who is retiring today after reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56, Lieutenant Colonels Nelson Allarde and Ariel Custodio Caesio, all assigned with the Army's Reserve Command.

Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual said the three were cleared by the Army's Inspector General "of any charge or connection with any recruitment for destabilization or meeting with officials who have links ups with PO supporters."

In fact, Andres was given a honorable parade by the Army leadership on Friday along with other Army generals who were due to retire from the service.

"With the Inspector General's report, the doubts on him were already cleared. He is retiring from the service with an unsullied loyalty to the service," Pascual said.

He explained that the Army's Inspector General found no evidence substantial enough to indict the three officers for any administrative or criminal cases. So said Army investigators found out that the allegations against the three were based on "false reports."

Pascual also said it was not true that the three met with former Army chief Lt. Gen. Jaime delos Santos sometime in December of last year. Delos Santos is part of a group of retired generals who supported Poe's presidential bid.

Earlier, the military accused the three of recruiting military reservists for mass actions in support of Poe, the standard bearer of the opposition Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, if he is cleared by the administration in the May 10 presidential elections.

RP airports step up security for 'swallowed explosives'

AVIATION authorities said yesterday they were stepping up screening procedures as Philippine airports for terrorists who could be trying to board planes after swallowing explosives to avoid detection.

They said the safety measures were put in place to prevent a repeat of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the United States, when hijacked planes were flown into the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon.

"Methods involving the use of liquid explosives and simple timing devices as used by the terrorists operating out of the Philippines are indicative of the variety of tactics they may develop," said a security directive at Manila airport that was made available to the AFP.

"The possibility of terrorists, or persons with criminal or other motivation, intent on wreaking aviation, carrying explosives internally must also be considered," it added.

The intergovernment suggested that militants could use methods "similar to the methodologies used by drug couriers." Drug carriers have been known to swallow or even surgically implant packets of narcotics in their bodies or the bodies of their pets to avoid detection at airport. Aviation authorities have recently stepped up security checks, including X-rays and body searches, South and Hong Kong have also been cleared.

Until Manila caved in to kidnap militants' demands and pulled out its troops in Iraq last month, the United States had considered the Philippines a key ally in the war on terrorism.

Washington has also expressed concern over training sites allegedly maintained by the Jemaah Islamiyah militant group on the rebellion-torn southern Philippine island of Mindanao.

The two countries say the group is a Southeast Asian group of the Al-Qaeda network behind the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States. AFP

'Soldiers' Mall' set to open soon in Camp Aguinaldo

By Alcuin Papa

A SHOPPING mall is set to open right inside Camp Aguinaldo, the Armed Forces of the Philippines' headquarters in Quezon City, after authorities decided to close concessions now still inside the military camp.

Yesterday, camp authorities closed down the old concessionaire stalls inside the camp to make way for the construction of a "Soldiers' Mall." A total of 45 stores were closed down.

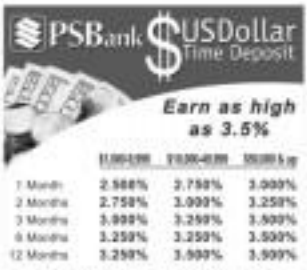
According to the AFP's Public Information Office, the camp's management committee said "Before it turns" to the malls occupants as early as 2000. They said there was a need "to modernize the concessionaire services, upgrade space allocations for owners, maximize the benefits that may be generated from concessionaire services, and enhance security and sanitation in the area."

The incumbent concessionaire owners were also given priority for application for new stalls at the Soldiers' Mall.

The mall was part of Camp Aguinaldo's Master Development Plan of 2000 embodied in the AFP Modernization Program. At the rate of the old concessionaire stalls, new barracks for enlisted personnel will be built.

Camp authorities, according to the ONG also hailed reclamation that the concessionaire's contracts were violated, saying to continue was in effect as early as 2000.

The concessionaires have petitioned a court to issue a temporary restraining order to stop their eviction but they were later denied for failure to present a valid contract as proof of their legal occupancy of the stalls.



The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ibasco

5 churches in Iraq bombed; 15 killed

BAGHDAD/MOSUL—Car bombs exploded outside at least five Christian churches in Iraq on Sunday, killing more than a dozen people and wounding many more in an apparently coordinated attack timed to coincide with evening prayers.

"We are expecting a huge number of casualties," an interior ministry source said, saying there had been four blasts at churches in Baghdad and two in the northern city of Mosul.

Police in Mosul said they knew of just one church attack there.

Separate violence beginning the night before killed 34, including six American soldiers, and wounded 110. The toll included a suicide car bombing outside a Mosul police station Saturday that killed five people and wounded 55, amid clashes in Fallujah between US troops and insurgents that killed 12 Iraqis and wounded 39 others.

The Vatican condemned the blasts—the first attacks on churches during the 15-month Iraq conflict—echoing concerns among Iraqi Christians and in influential religious circles.

In the deadliest attack, a suicide car bomber drove into the car park of a Christian church in southern Baghdad before detonating his vehicle, killing at least 12 people as worshippers left the building, witnesses said.

Police in Baghdad reported that guerrillas opposed to the presence of more 150,000 foreign troops may try to deepen divisions between the country's diverse religious communities in their campaign to destabilize Iraq.

"It is terrible and worrying because it is the first time that Islamic churches are being targeted in Iraq," said Yahnan Aqrawi, spokesperson Father Cyte Benedictus.

A US military spokesperson said three of the bombs outside Baghdad were known to be suicide car bombings.

The series of explosions—at least four of them car bombings—began after 6 p.m. Sunday as parishioners gathered inside their neighborhood churches. The blasts shattered stained glass windows and sent downpipers running into the streets, screaming and clutching their bleeding heads.

An explosion at the Armenian church in Baghdad shattered stained glass windows and hurled chunks of the metal-clad doors hundreds of yards. Minutes later a car bomb near the Assyrian church and several wounded.

US Col. Mike Kinsey of the 1st Cavalry Division said at least 36 people had been wounded at the church, some seriously.

"These are attacks now against the Iraqi people and against Iraq, and we're going to finish them. I'm not afraid," Interior Minister Falah al-Naqib told reporters at the church.

In Mosul, officials said at least one person was killed in a blast at a church and 11 wounded. The US military said the attackers fired a rocket at the Mar Behe Catholic Church before detonating a car bomb and put the toll from the attack at one dead and seven wounded.

There are about 800,000 Christians in Iraq, most of them in Baghdad. Several more attacks have targeted Shiite Muslim pilgrims in Iraq, most of whom are Christians of either the Assyrian, Chaldean or Armenian denominations.

Christians account for about three percent of the population of Iraq, where attempts to promote conflict have mainly focused on Sunni, Shiite Muslim and members of the Kurdish minority, who were oppressed by ousted dictator Saddam Hussein. —Reuters, AP

ELATED. Her wife of forty years, an Indian child hostage in Iraq, along with her daughter Sahibdeep, celebrate after hearing the release of Amaryanni's release, Aug 1. —AP

Confusion over 7 hostages as Kenya reports release

NAIROBI—Kenya said Sunday that seven truck drivers, including three Kenyans, held in Iraq had been released and were at the Egyptian Embassy but the statement was immediately denied by an Egyptian official and by the company that employs them.

"I am pleased to announce that the three Kenyans, together with four others from other countries, have this afternoon been released," Kenyan Foreign Minister Chirau Ali Mwakwere told a press conference in Nairobi.

"They are right now in Baghdad in the safe custody of the Egyptian Embassy and they will in the next few hours be taken to Kuwait, where they will be received by our ambassador to Saudi Arabia and his team that is already there," he added.

"They are in very good health," Mwakwere added.

"This is a great achievement for the country... This is diplomacy at its best," he said, adding: "My worked day and night to ensure that we succeeded eventually in bringing back home our brothers, who were held in Iraq."

But the Kuwaiti company that employs the truck drivers said the four had not been released yet.

"They have not been released. We'll be the first to know" if they were, Rana Abu Zaina, spokesperson for the Kuwait and Gulf Link Co., said.

An Egyptian official also denied that any hostages were safely inside his country's embassy in Baghdad. AFP

IN PROTEST OF THE CONSUMER AND OIL PRICE WATCH (CDPW) STATEMENTS ON PETROLEUM PRICES

The Consumer and Oil Price Watch (CDPW) had issued various statements that we deem misleading, and had raised false expectations on the price movement of petroleum products.

The CDPW had reported that petroleum prices had gone down, as in the case of diesel, from $ 44.62 / bbl in May '04 to $ 42.84 / bbl in June '04, for which a rollback in pump prices should have been effected.

What the CDPW failed to appreciate was the substantial under-recovery of P 1.741 / liter as in the case of diesel that we, the independent oil players, had been incurring up to that period. Diesel prices in the world market had risen to 20.5 % of what it was in January, 2002. The peso had depreciated 9 %, while our Wholesale Posted Prices (WPP) had increased only by 19% for the same period. The magnitude of the sacrifice made by the independent oil companies is very clear and beyond question.

With the average MOPS for July '04 deteriorating to $ 40 / bbl, the running under-recovery ballooned to P 2.32 / liter. On July 31, 2004, MOPS price for diesel was being quoted at $ 49.20 / bbl. If this level persists against the taken increase of only 50 centavos/ we made on the pump prices today, our under-recovery shall be P 3.50 / liter.

THE FACT IS Recognizing the plight of our consumers which was the whole genesis of our economy, from factories and industrial establishments to the ordinary household, the independent oil companies have consistently sacrificed and cushioned the impact of the huge and unabated rise in the cost of world oil prices, even to the detriment of their own viability.

THE FACT IS The independent oil companies need to survive. Our resources are severely strained, and we have to recover our losses. Amidst the raging competition and the continuing volatility of world oil prices, the independent oil companies continue a very delicate task of maintaining its business viability, while keeping a tight rein on prices, as it is fully cognizant of its effect on the economy and the lives of our people.

THE FACT IS The oil industry is deregulated. In this setting, oil companies are engaged in vigorous and healthy competition, as envisaged in the Downstream Oil Deregulation Law. Prices are set by the individual companies on the basis of their costs, their business strategies, and their ability to meet competition.

IN THIS VERY DIFFICULT PERIOD WHEN WE, THE INDEPENDENT OIL COMPANIES, ARE WALKING A TIGHT ROPE – ON ONE HAND, ABSORBING THE IMPACT FOR THE CONSUMERS OF UNABATED WORLD MARKET PRICES, WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND, TRYING TO MAKE GRADUAL PRICE RECOVERIES TO PRESERVE OUR VIABILITY – THE LAST THING WE NEED IS AN OUTSIDER GROUP, SUCH AS CDPW, WHO EVIDENTLY NEITHER FULLY UNDERSTANDS, APPRECIATES, NOR IS CONCERNED WITH OUR INDUSTRY PROBLEMS. WHAT CDPW IS UNWITTINGLY CREATING IS AN ATMOSPHERE OF CONFUSION AND DISTRUST, EVEN FANNING RESENTMENT OF THE CONSUMERS FOR THE INDUSTRY.

If the oil companies came up with statements on another industry, and start prognosticating on what prices would be and worse, what it ought to be, and if we presumptuously try to get involved in that industries' costings and margins – we would not be credible and we would be doing the economy and the players of that industry great damage.

WE ARE THEREFORE APPEALING TO THE CONSUMER AND OIL PRICE WATCH (CDPW) TO BE MORE CIRCUMSPECT AND PRUDENT IN THEIR PRONOUNCEMENTS, ON MATTER OF PETROLEUM PRICES.

INDEPENDENT PHILIPPINE PETROLEUM COMPANIES ASSOCIATION (IPPCA)

Sudan assails UN's 30-day deadline

KHARTOUM—The Sudanese Cabinet condemned on Sunday the 30-day deadline for action on Darfur set by the UN Security Council, but said it would implement a 90-day program agreed earlier with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

The Security Council, in a resolution passed on Friday, demanded the Sudanese government take action within 30 days to disarm the Arab militias known as the Janjaweed, blamed for wreaking a humanitarian crisis in the western region.

If Sudan fails to satisfy the council, the United Nations said it intends to consider economic and diplomatic sanctions.

Sudan has given a mixed response to the resolution and the Cabinet met on Sunday to take a formal position.

"The council of ministers condemned the time period and views it to be illogical and difficult to implement, especially since the agreement we reached with the United Nations gave a 90-day implementation period," Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail told reporters after the meeting.

"Sudan will commit to implement the agreement that it signed in April with Kofi Annan and will commit to the joint implementation mechanism which was set up to monitor this agreement," the minister added.

The agreement with Annan included a Sudanese government commitment to disarm the Janjaweed militias and accept human rights monitors in Darfur, where conflict has displaced more than 1 million people, but to allowed Darfan more time.

Ismail said UN and Sudanese officials could meet on Monday.

An annan administrator with the UN Agency for International Development, Roger Winter, said in addition to the 30,000 people who have been killed in attacks in Darfur, as many as 50,000 more may have died from hunger and disease.

"That number will start to jet up a good bit over the next few months and then it will start to tail off because a lot of the most vulnerable people... will have died by then," he said last week in Washington after returning from Sudan. Reuters

Diana fountain bugged by bad luck, poor plans

LONDON—It was meant to be the perfect tribute to the "people's princess"—a circle of serene design designed for children to frolic in, rather than a stark stone obelisk to be marvelled.

But the house behind the Princess Diana Memorial Fountain in London's Hyde Park have been thwarted by a number of bad luck and apparent poor planning.

On Sunday, the circular moat lay drained of water behind a two-meter high link fence to keep people out.

"It's disappointing. We came to the park especially to see it and it's just a dry stone circle," said tourist Sarah Peterson, 26.

The 3.6 million pound ($6.5 million) fountain, opened in a grand ceremony by Queen Elizabeth II less than a month ago, was closed indefinitely after Chris people, including a child, slipped and injured themselves while wading in it.

Environmental experts blamed the designers, claiming it should have been obvious that a granite moat combined with flowing water would be a treading ground for slippery algae.

Culture Minister Tessa Jowell criticized some of the visitors to the memorial for dropping litter, including diapers, into the fountain and allowing their dogs into the water.

Jowell said that the Royal Parks agency, which manages Hyde Park, is working to rectify the problems but future visitors will have to play their part.

"People have got to be responsible in the way they let their children play in the fountain," she told the Sunday Telegraph newspaper.

"The original hope is that this is a memorial. I don't think any responsible member of the public would want to see people allowing their dogs in it," she added.

The ring of water, designed by American Kathryn Gustafson, was chosen ahead of 57 other entries as the permanent memorial for Diana in the capital. AP

DEADLY BLAZE
A Iraqi resident is carried away by firefighters after a suspected car bomb set on the roadside of Paragon's capital Kunming killing nearly 100 people. (Story on Page A9) REUTERS

Envoy: No fallout in UN from RP decision

NEW YORK—The membership and participation of the Philippines in the United Nations Security Council remain unaffected by the recent drama created by the Angelo de la Cruz case.

This was reported by Ambassador Lauro L. Baja Jr., Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations, to the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila.

Baja reported that no member state of the UN, in particular the host country Council, even brought up the subject, much less criticize the Philippine decision to save the life of De la Cruz by announcing a few weeks the scheduled pullout of the Philippine Humanitarian Contingent in Iraq.

"This is because to the multilateral bay, the Philippines, through the President, has established its credentials as a leader in the fight against terrorism, in the national, regional and international arena," Baja said in a radio interview.

Taking a cue from the policy pronouncements of President Macapagal-Arroyo, Baja said the Philippines drafted the Senate Declaration Against Terrorism and the Bilateral Agreement on the Exchange of Information and Establishment of Communication Procedures, immediately after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States.

"We are also active in the Counter Terrorism Committee and the Sanctions Committee against al-Qaeda and Taliban in the Security Council, so as sponsored the Security Council resolution against the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in non-state actors and we ratified the UN conventions Against Terrorism and related issues," Baja said.

He said there was no need to keep on stressing the Philippine action on the De la Cruz case. "He broke abandoned by our host," the ambassador said. "If there is this book or the bigger picture, they will realize that we have not deported from our policy against terror nor wavered in our efforts to help Iraq," Baja said.

Nearly 300 killed in Paraguay fire

ASUNCION—Nearly 300 people were killed and hundreds more injured when a deadly fire raced through a shopping center in the outskirts of this Paraguayan capital, police said early Monday.

The toll at the Ycuma Mburucuya supermarket was especially high because shopping center security personnel locked the main doors to prevent customers from fleeing without first paying.

Firefighters believe the fire was ignited by a spark from an industrial sewer propane gas tank in the food court.

Municipal police spokesperson Inocencio Mancuello said early Monday that at least 290 people were killed, and more than 300 were injured.

"It is possible that there are more bodies," Mancuello said. "We are still removing bodies, though in a cautious, slow manner," he said, referring to fears that the smoke-building may collapse due to structural damage.

The blaze consumed a significant part of a supermarket within the shopping complex, which also houses offices and a parking garage.

Policemen said that in the chaos that ensued after heard several explosions. Officials said the fire had likely been sparked by gas canisters that subsequently ignited.

Prosecutor Edgar Sosa, in charge of investigating the blaze, told reporters that shopping center owners Juan Pio Pinto will be charged with homicide for blocking the doors. Pinto surrendered to the authorities, but denied ordering workers to close the shopping center doors.

One survivor, Rosa Rosquin, said she heard numerous shouting "close them, close them" and "no one gets out of here without paying."

"When the fire started, the police and firemen opened the doors, but it was already too late," she told reporters.

Maria Schwalbe, 37, who was being treated at a hospital for second-degree burns, said, "they closed the door in our face."

"People broke the old door from outside and then we were able to get out," Swalbe said.

Most people died of smoke inhalation. Some might have screamed "save," said volunteer firefighters Captain Hugo Ozuna. "If they had let them out it wouldn't have happened." AP

NORTHERN ISLANDS CO., INC.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to notify the public (depositary banks, dealers, clients and suppliers) of the current composition of the Board of Directors and the present corporate officers of Northern Islands Co., Inc. (NICI).

On 16 July 2004, the Court of Appeals, in CA SP No. 85068, entitled *Northern Islands Co., Inc., et al. vs. Hon. Judge Artemio S. Tipon, Presiding Judge, RTC, Branch 46, Manila, et al.*, issued a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO), the dispositive portion of which reads:

> "WHEREFORE, a Temporary Restraining Order is hereby issued to be effective upon service and for a period of SIXTY (60) DAYS, unless sooner lifted, ordering the public respondents and all those acting for or through them, to cease and desist from enforcing, maintaining or otherwise giving effect to their challenged Orders dated June 22, 2004 (Annex "B" of the petition, p. 36, rollo) and July 12, 2004 (Annex "A" of the petition, p. 34, rollo) issued in Civil Case No. 04-109444, subject of this petition." (emphasis ours)

By restraining the effectivity of the 22 June 2004 Order of the RTC, the Court of Appeals stopped the transfer of the Civil Case No. 04-109444, entitled *Lincoln Continental Development Co., Inc. vs. Northern Islands Co., Inc., et al.* pending with the Regional Trial Court of Manila, Branch 46, from Judge Antonio Eugenio, Jr., to Judge Artemio S. Tipon.

By restraining the effectivity of the 12 July 2004 Order of the RTC, the Court of Appeals stopped Judge Tipon from hearing the application for TRO of Lincoln Continental Development Co., Inc.

In the meantime, on 15 July 2004, Judge Tipon issued a TRO purporting to restrain the following directors and corporate officers from discharging the duties of their respective positions:

Simny G. Guy - President, Chairman and CEO/director/authorized bank signatory
Grace G. Cheu - Vice-President - Finance/director/authorized bank signatory
Geraldine G. Guy - General Manager/director/authorized bank signatory
Gladys G. Yao - Corporate Secretary/director

Judge Tipon's TRO was, however, superseded by the Court of Appeals TRO of 16 July 2004.

Accordingly, ONLY the acts and transactions of the above-named directors and corporate officers will be legally recognized by NICI.

VICTOR L. CHAN LAW OFFICE & ASSOCIATES

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

REAL ESTATE

Julia Cesar O. Mangaoang

Sustainable housing for everyone

BUILDING DREAMS

By Alexis A. Acuzar, PhD

SUSTAINABLE development means that the present needs of the current generation is responsibly being met without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their needs. In housing development, it is the environmentally aware that has become the method of responsible building.

What is an environment friendly house? It is a home that not only meets the needs of its occupants at more low to built with resource efficiency using renewable, environment friendly materials.

The responsible builder, aware of taking care of the environment for tomorrow, should look at the following aspects of development:

• Environmental Initiatives—The builder makes sure that all of the excavations are done would not damage the environment at all or if natural be avoided, provide minimal impact.

• Insulation—To conserve energy, the insulating system of the house would make sure the heat being brought into the house mainly through the roof is reduced so that the house is comfortable enough. In colder climates, the insulation keeps the occupants warm. The effect of insulation is reduced air conditioning and heating bills.

• Solar Water Heater—The solar heater produces hot water with the use of solar energy thereby reducing the consumption of electricity. Solar panels are commonly placed on the roof to absorb and store solar energy. Although the initial cost of a solar water heater system is high, it might be cheaper in the long run. To calculate the actual savings you would get by using one, it is best to consult solar designers on the market.

• Waste Water Treatment Systems—Many years ago, dirty water was simply brought back to the environment through canals and open drainage lines. But today, they have to be treated before they can be brought back to the ground. By proper treatment, it is hoped water that dirty water does not contaminate the ground when

Embracing the 'faster, better, cheaper' approach to building structures

By Charles E. Bolton

WITHIN THE UNITED States' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) began its New Millennium program in the early '90s, it trumpeted a new slogan: "Faster, Better, Cheaper," an approach that simply means decreasing the time of designing, building and launching new spacecraft while holding down the typically staggering costs.

This was Nasa's response to its continuously shrinking budget that could no longer tolerate expensive undertakings like it had accomplished in the '60s and '70s.

From now on, Nasa must come up with a more imaginative and successful space program utilizing small, less expensive and generally less expensive projects.

During the value of this new philosophy, other industries followed in the footsteps of Nasa to address their own respective challenges.

Spiraling cost of materials

In the case of the construction industry, the challenge is how to build better structures in a shorter time, esthetically pleasing and structurally sound, and of course, cost less.

"And there are not easy to achieve considering the spiraling cost of building materials not to mention that many of these [construction] materials that have become like steel, if supply or ban become limited," explained structural engineer Ibrahim Abud Jr. of Li Global Estate Development and Construction Corp.

Indeed, it may only a matter of time before property developers would just choose to look at project costs and put a tight watch on the budget.

And yet, Abud explained, engineers cannot just build structures that use less materials to save money or architects to create lackluster designs just to be safe, to budget.

Using value engineering

Formed two years ago, LACEDCC specializes in property development and construction using structural value engineering.

Structural value engineering is a field of civil engineering specializing in the structural analysis and design of any structure with emphasis on the most economical yet safe structural design.

"Structural value engineering is not a new idea. Sadly, it was not given much consideration in the past. But with the ever rising cost of almost everything, it now makes sense to employ it in the design of many horizontal (highways, airport runways, bridges) and vertical (homes, high-rise developments, factories) structures without sacrificing the overall structural integrity of the structures and without alterations of the basic architectural design requirement," Abud explained.

But can building structures be done on the cheap?

Several areas

"There are several areas where a structural value engineer may get savings without getting inferior quality materials or changing the entire design," explained Abud.

According to him, cost savings may be extracted by using several methods or techniques.

Possible areas

The following are among the possible areas where a structural value engineer may look in to get the desired savings:

• Choice of the structural material to be used (whether to use structural steel, concrete, or combination of the two)

• Adoption of the appropriate materials for structural slab systems, foundation/load wall systems, and other structural systems

• Choice of structural design techniques and structural systems

• Art of detailing the workability and latest implementation

• Iterative process of devising structural schemes to produce optimum and more economical designs.

"Even using a different building material, like steel instead of reinforced concrete, can cut cost without changing the structural stability. In case, even make roofs lighter, which means you save on some beams and shorter construction time," he explained.

Derive savings

"The savings that can be derived from here can range from 15 percent to 40 percent of the total structural construction cost, which is about 7.5 percent to 15 percent of the total project cost," revealed Abud.

To prove his point, Abud revealed one of the projects his R Abud & Associates Engineering Consultancy firm helped design.

"Led by Valenzuela Mayor (Tomas Reynald) Tiangco, the municipal government decided to build a new five-story municipal hall. We showed them the savings they could get without actually changing their original design," related Abud.

P14M savings

From the building's estimated cost of P1.48 million, LACEDCC was able to provide the Navotas local government a total savings amounting to P14 million in the construction of the building.

"The cost-reducing structural value engineering technique was done before the shore line of construction submitted their respective bids, ensuring construction savings on the part of the Navotas local government," this Cedillo.

The design advantages employed by LACEDCC can achieve savings ranging from P980 to P1,200 per square meter in each building floor area (out of the total structural construction cost).

"And it can be applied basically to all structures. In fact, if these cost savings were applied to a typical 20-story building with a per level floor area of 1,000 sq m, the total savings would amount to about P20 million to a high P24 million," Abud computed.

Working in alliance

Abud revealed that a structural value engineer usually comes in during the planning stage just after project engineers are done with the project's preliminary design.

"We value engineers (the project's preliminary design), running an analysis and determine the most cost-effective way to build it. It's come sort of fine-tuning the design before going to the next stage, which is the actual construction work," explained Abud.

Abud said they also need the initial input from the project engineers. "We cannot just start right away, otherwise we will have to make two models that would consume more and compose savings from."

According to Abud, almost 20 to 50 percent of the total project cost is allocated to the cost of the structure (foundation to superstructure) in which savings can be possibly extracted.

DESPITE THE COST SAVING measures done by LACEDCC, the building retained its original design.

ARTIST'S rendition of the finished Navotas Municipal Hall

Revolutionizing testing system for construction materials

Who would have thought that a seemingly insignificant piece of metal can be the key to stronger and safer buildings and infrastructures?

Such is the concept of LTSS—the first-of-its-kind innovative system introduced in the market that is set to revolutionize the local construction industry's traditional materials testing process.

LTSS is being introduced to the market through the consortium of Jose Reading & Company—MTS Corp. of Hong Kong, Hollpeef Japan, AGO-Asia Pacific of Germany and Unlimited Solutions of the Philippines.

The LTSS is an innovative system that leverages on the RFID, or Radio Frequency Identification. It offers a comprehensive blend of solutions for the testing of construction materials to help contractors and developers streamline testing processes in a more efficient and cost-effective approach.

RFID is a wireless link, using radio waves, to uniquely identify people or objects. In this case, the microchip is embedded on the sample concrete cube to be tested and encrypted with various data relevant to the construction.

Benefits of the LTSS include the prevention of sample switching, protection of the integrity of test sample data, reduction of administrative costs through less paperwork, and real-time retrieval of test data and reports.

The system can also generate various analysis as requested by a client long after the building has been constructed.

Eradicating malpractices

Jun J. Godoy, consultant for MTS, said the accuracy of RFID can be a tool to eradicate certain malpractices in the industry.

"Said to say but there are instances of cheating in the industry, particularly during the testing process, the expectations of which are extremely lucrative."

"The safety and stability of any building or structure must always be considered. The LTSS system will be one of the key factors toward this goal."

Cost-effective

Bulgar Bonanno, managing director and partner of SGS Industrie, one of the major global inspection, verification, testing and certification of the system.

Philips regional manager Arthur Pek expresses his optimism of the system's adoption in the local market.

"The DTSS will eventually help the Philippine economic landscape be at par with our global counterparts, thus generating more business opportunities for the country."

ONCE completed, El Refugio is a perfect place for relaxation.

Landco's Ponderosa slowly taking shape

By Charles E. Bolton

FORBES PARK Corporate Farms recently celebrated the unveiling of its El Refugio clustered garden, the first (of the three) destination gardens to be set up in this 50-hectare development located in Silang, Cavite.

Designed by Pondevida Farms, Inc. (PFI) particularly and the property's landowner Maria Luisa Perez-Rubio, El Refugio is a landscape of streams, pond, seasonal rivers (homeowners) and shrubs (homesteads), and pine trees.

It also features a clubhouse, where small gatherings for private functions can be held and a viewing deck affording a commanding view of the garden and the streams that pass through a series of stone bridges and ends in a pool of clear water filled with ornamental tropical fish.

"The clubhouse is also planned to be the home of Ponderosa Garden Club, which will be formed as soon as practicable," revealed Rubio.

Aside from the clubhouse, there will also be a kiosk for selling activities.

Over 500 guests

The over 500 guests who attended the unveiling were also treated to a flower arrangement contest followed by a brief, informative talk on choosing and caring for one's roses, courtesy of Rubio.

Landco Pacific Corp. (LPC), the property's developer, hopes the resort town will persuade more prospective buyers in to invest in Ponderosa.

"Ponderosa is envisioned to be a community in bloom, a vacation garden home like no other. It is designed to bring garden lovers together who's they can interact, until their garden without worry or hassle," explained Ponderosa Project Manager Jill Serra-Bautista III, LPC vice president and Leisure Sector group head.

Second Leisure Farm

Ponderosa is LPC's second Leisure Farm. The first was located in Lemery, Batangas, is the country's first and leading agro-tourism and hobby farming community.

In its second project, LPC joined hands with Ponderosa Nursery to create an exclusive flower garden community amidst a private, rustic Mediterranean-Spanish village setting.

"At Ponderosa, experience nature's finest amidst the comforts of home and the pleasures of paradise," promises Bautista.

Northgate Cyberzone begins HDPP building construction

GROUNDBREAKING ceremonies were held recently in Northgate Cyberzone for the first ever building to be occupied by HSBC Electronic Data Processing (Philippines) Inc., the 6th group service center in Asia of the United HSBC Group. The building is scheduled for completion in mid-2005.

Northgate Cyberzone's accessibility, comprehensive infrastructure, superior lifestyle amenities and package of tax incentives for qualified technology license make it an ideal site for HDPP's 24/7 operations. Northgate Cyberzone is an information technology park registered with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) and located within Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang.

PRESENT during the event are, from left, architect Jaenice Tablizo (vice president, Filinvest Alabang Inc.), engineer Jaime Ortiz-Bernardo (president/CEO, HDPP), former Efren Custodio (president, FAI), David Barrow (president, HDPP), Jun Gonzales (project development manager, FAI), Jaya de Guzman (first vice president, FAI) and Robert Muth (HSBC head of global resourcing).

Sustainable housing for everyone

(Turn page A-18)

it goes back to the environment.

• Use of Nontoxic Paints—Toxic paints can harm the environment and damage the ozone layer. Hard to worse, it can be a health hazard to home occupants. By using nontoxic paints, the environment is protected and the occupants of the home are assured of a healthy living environment.

• Water Conservation Devices— Modern homes have their own water-saving devices. Most water closets (toilet bowls) use a small amount of water to flush. This is mainly due to the proper design of these. Besides, sprinkler systems in the garden also provide savings in water consumption.

• Solar Energy Systems—Electricity can be derived from solar energy. There are homes in developed countries that utilize solar energy as a source for power. By using these solar energy systems, electrical consumption is greatly reduced.

• Wind Energy Systems—There are areas and subdivisions in developed countries that are windmills as a source of power. Although the setup cost of wind-generating facilities is high, the benefits of a reduced consumption of electricity is realized in the long term.

Final Note. Protecting the earth's scarce resources is one of the biggest responsibilities of every designer, builder and owner. Every citizen, together with the government, should work together in preserving the world's scarce resources. Since most of us spend most of our time in our homes, any savings in its operation will surely go a long way in preserving the environment.

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OPINION

Publisher ... Editor ... Managing Editor ... Associate Editors ... Assistant Editors ... Senior Editor ... Opinion Editor ... Associate Editor ... City Editor ... Assistant Editor ... Editorial Consultant ... Chief Photographer ... Art & Design Director ...

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Clean air?

THE AIR quality in Metro Manila and some outlying areas "is within acceptable levels," the Environmental Management Bureau said in a press statement last week. The statement raised the question of whether or not a few people who didn't think they were just imagining all the smog and haze that they had been seeing and experiencing in the metropolis.

EDITORIAL

A tiny colorful photo on the front page of the Inquirer yesterday showing a gray haze of pollutants hovering over the metropolis quickly belied the EMB statement. On a clear day, if you stand on a high point in Antipolo or any other elevated part of the metropolis, you will see—not forever, but in unfolding gray haze that is enough to make you want to hold your breath or immediately put on a gas mask.

Some progress has been made in reducing air pollutants but we strongly doubt whether it has been brought "within acceptable levels." A recent World Bank study showed that annual air pollution standards are exceeded in 76 percent or 22 out of 32 of the monitoring sites. Metro Manila, where the eight-hour standard is exceeded, has the worst readings. Its residents are exposed to more than 300,000 tons of particulates matter every year. But the good news is that ambient (environmental) levels are down due to the elimination of lead in gasoline since January 2001.

Diesel emissions from buses, jeepneys, utility vehicles and trucks are estimated to be the biggest contributor to urban air pollution. Last year, there were 4.2 million registered vehicles in the country, a mere four threefold increase from 1.2 million in 1985. A fast growth in vehicle ownership is contributing significantly to air pollution.

Jeepneys remain a popular choice for daily transport in Metro Manila, and drivers and passengers—especially school children—are exposed daily to air pollutants. Two-stroke engines power more than 75 percent of motorcycles and tricycles. Their exhaust contains a higher level of fine particles, unburned fuel and lubricants than those of four-stroke engines. Recently there was a move to ban two-stroke engines in some parts of Metro Manila but officials backed down when tricycle drivers mounted a strike that threatened to cripple transport on the side streets of the metropolis.

Industries, most of which are located in the Metro Manila area, also contribute a lot to air pollution. They include thermal power stations, cement manufacturing plants and oil refineries. Oil- and coal-fired power plants, many of which are also located in the metropolis, emit 233,000 metric tons of sulfur dioxide every year.

Monitoring of three other cities—Baguio, Cebu and Davao—shows that averages of total suspended particulates have exceeded guidelines in recent years.

The health cost of air pollution in the four major cities of the country has been estimated to be more than $400 million (about P22.4 billion) a year or approximately 3.6 percent of the country's gross domestic product. It has been estimated that more than 2,800 people die prematurely every year because of air pollution. More than 9,000 people suffer from acute bronchitis. And nearly 51 million "respiratory-symptom days" are recorded yearly in Metro Manila.

Air pollution has produced not only a health problem but an esthetic problem: it is one big cause of the "ugly-cation" of the cities. It also causes loss of productivity and damages ecosystems and physical infrastructure.

What has to be done to improve air quality not just in Metro Manila but the entire country? For starters, the enforcement of laws and regulations, including the Clean Air Act, has to be intensified. The capacity of government agencies to enforce the rules has to be strengthened. The anti-smoke belching campaigns in major cities and towns will have to be intensified.

The cities and municipalities will have to pass ordinances requiring improved maintenance for high-use commercial vehicles, the use of improved fuel and a shift to four-stroke motorcycles. Public transport and traffic management will also have to be improved. Huge traffic jams contribute a lot to air pollution.

Enforcement of regulations that would improve air quality could be strengthened by offering incentives and imposing penalties. A nationwide information campaign could promote public awareness of the problem of air pollution and at the same time encourage widespread participation in the efforts to improve air quality. Everyone has to do his part to solve the problem before the very air that we breathe makes as sick or ill as us.

'Ovarian lottery'

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"I'VE recording a Nutrition Day school program," explained my grandchildren, Camille, 11, and Adrian, 8, as they passed by. On our tail-ins, I was then recalling the 6th National Nutrition Survey's theme done for 1988 (inspiration sounds the opinion-makers' equivocation).

Some good news first. "There has been a general improvement between 1998 and 2003 in the country's overall nutritional situation," the Food and Nutrition Institute's Dr. Corazon Barba reports.

Reductions in underweight and stunting among kids were marked. Pregnant and lactating women are on weight. "Chronic energy deficient" in school adults dwindled.

Some problems linger. Malnourishing, Camille and Adrian belonged to a three-year group of adequately nourished kids. Others their age remained ill-fed. As a result, they were sometimes absent, ladies.

Among children between 6 and 10, almost 27 percent were underweight. Nationwide, there's 2.45 million stunted kids (six grandpas stretched out). About four out of 10 were obese. Are the 3.41 million affected tomorrow's generation of "midgets"?

Per-capita rice and adequate nutrition are crucial. "Many of the things we need we must," Nobel Laureate Gabriel Marcel wrote. "The child cannot wait. Now is the time his bones are being formed, his blood made and his senses developed. To him we can not say, 'tomorrow.' His name is today."

Camille and Adrian...along with Aiesa, 3, is Pido Alex, and Kristin, one, is from Montaine—didn't have to wait. When they, therefore, answering senators in what some planners dub "the window of opportunity."

Born into the country's thin middle class, they were vaccinated routinely against hepatitis B, tetanus, measles, etc. Tutorials stacked their development and nutrition, in the world-wide network.

But poverty and joblessness deny so many what should be standard care. Insomia still scourges in obscene levels, and the most vulnerable are expectant and breast-feeding mothers. Almost half (44 percent) of women in the family way are anemic. So are 42 percent of lactating women. These cannot "nurse-feed" their babies adequately.

Take manners, generations ago on the north of Iloilo," Lucrecia wrote. They also pass on kidney.

Prevalence of anemia in infants up to two years of age "continued to increase, and is alarmingly high," Dr. Barba reveals. Here are percentages of those who see on months or one-year old nurseries: More than half of mid-Bicol (52 percent) up to age two were affected.

Lack of Vitamin A, iron and iodine sap mind-ligence potentials. Six-month nourished kid does can be stopped from "40 to 14 percent," the Asian Development Bank estimates. "Cognitive loss" is 10 percent for stunted individuals. A process for iodine deficiency ensues. "Thyroids never be recovered."

"Cognitive deficits" are reduced mental capacity. "The kids doesn't go through all the stages of learning properly," they're less bright, saying nurses that our kids score at 75% out of 25 examinees that opened up for the Environmental Mathematics and former exams.

Rice schooling and poor nutrition are factors. "Many kids come to school without breakfast," says Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul del Mar.

These from the lunchbox against which the Seven Month is worked and, more important, the Food Fortification Law (Republic Act 8976) represents the solution. This is a comprehensive measure drawn the Ten Commandments to Ten Suggestions. Laws are devalued from the measures laws recommendations.

Read Scott Adams, the Dilbert cartoon's Dr. Hieronimus Boboz explains, adds on cynical measurements. She explains A to Z rules, only widely consumed foods. There's the lovely noodles and sweet potatoes and so on.

Among pro-schoolers, the use of every loan, based on bread, a GP College of Home Economics study showed. Noodles form the staple for 26. Dinner, where Rom...home ingredient for noodles and pan of a side-dish component is the most suitable for food-rich items. Edible offal meats followed by sugar.

Local research documents this simple technology's impact. After giving fortified pan de sal everyday for six months, "half the number of those children with inadequate stores of vitamin A in the liver 'were back to normal.' About 90 percent of vitamin A was restored in urban those immediately it was added.

Yesterday, no other technology available today offers so large an opportunity to improve lives and to accelerate development, in such a few tots, and in so short a time," the World Bank says.

"Fortification of a loaf of just oh ml would cost less than half a centavo," Dr. Barba estimates. Cost to other flour millers, other operators 1.5 cents—if in large, one cent in the Visayas and Mindanao—people with. Time because later reflect the child in the post exchange when implementing the law.

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"Ratification of the Convention requires that parties have in the case of that leg. That is the good business. "The cost is minuscule. The benefit is enormous," Philip Fuentes of the Bagong Hoya Bldg. of Indonesia said. "We have acted on this more both because it is right, and because it pays not to have a stunted workforce. Just see you on to "our nutrition fathers," have on our track. Camille, Adrian, Aiesa and Kristin deserve healthy in life who inspire a duty: don of sharing with those who lost in the other necessary!

(E-mail: jlmercado@inq.com.ph)

Terror

THERE'S THE RUB

Commodo de Quevo

FROM THE FIRST, some prosecutor Monte Lemery quote should have rung alarm bells. Recently, Fr. quoted Garcia Burnham as saying, "There was no connection between the ASG and the military." This bold statement is exactly out of sync with Burnham's presumably or way of phrasing things.

I myself was wondering how long it would take Burnham to issue a statement refuting it. Then I realized that the statement is barebones: for (that is not her personality or one of phrasing things such, but she would have left no doubt about his own prohibitions for such deliberations. This wasn't just a case of separating gems from dross; prosecutor's favorite pastime is to misquote and hedging it to the public.

But, as it turns out, Burnham only not have to. Abadia Recodadas of ABS-CBN, who obtained a copy the judge's staff producing a videotape of the proceedings, reported that Burnham did not say anything at all. She never had a chance it. The prosecution objected to the defense's question, "Was there collusion between the ASG and the military?" and the judge ruled that the defense might ask the witness that question later.

It's also feature when it believes Abadia or Lukaya. Abadia holds the lamp of truth while Lamere seems to serve only to counter the devil with pitchforks and fiery end.

Before she left, Burnham said candidly she hoped the country would finally be free of terror. She meant, of course, free of groups like the Abu Sayyaf and others who pose such terrorism. Unlike the ASG opponents the terrorists, particularly those someone who has deeply suffered. It is Christian virtue to forgive those who wished them harm. Garcia Burnham can only think not of herself but of others.

But there is something that enrages this country: its most cynical and deeply think she never being cynical to the Abu Sayyaf. There is something that secludes this country for more honestly and fearlessly than even the terror being revealed by those who threatened Angelo de los Reyes with beheading a few weeks ago. One whose consequences are far more chilling and longer lasting than the murdered leader left behind by groups like the Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah.

That is the tangled mess of lies and deceit that has been mounted on by this government, the same tangled mess of lies and deceit that has been mounted on the American people by George W. Bush, which Michael Moore brilliantly dissects in "Fahrenheit 9/11." (I'll write more on this in another column.) What is what we need to be freed from before anything else, that is what we need to be freed from above everything else. We are not freed from that, we will never be free of terror.

The cases of Angelo de los Reyes and Garcia Burnham have one thing in common: in Iraq a government has manipulated them. Both are freed on lies, both are based on deceit. Both have been carried into triumphs of government when they represent the most dismal failures. Both have been surrounded by a lot of hype and hoopla to make the public reasons see how they ended but not how they began.

In the case of the de los Reyes, we were made to remember only that government was hard hit by public criticism for its handling of the hostages that the reason he was abducted and decimated with death in the first place was that his president made sure on his request.

In the case of Burnham, well, she lying a mere three and breathtaking. I mean you've got to be a baby and where you've got a rescue mission involving a gunman and then you would in her mouth. Did Lucrecia think he could pressure her to individuals without the right timing was eventually? Or did he figure that our Gracia Burnham got to issue a statement refuting his version, it would be hailed by us readers he of other events, entirely would be interested interviews and the incident would become just another item in the newspapers?

But didn't see the biggest lie of all. What is, perpetrated by both the GMA and Bush governments, is that Gracia Burnham is the victim of terrorism and government has scored a victory for democracy by rescuing her from it. (Final question!) One cannot doubt that Gracia Burnham and her fellow hostages lived in truth and absolute terror during their days of captivity. That doesn't make their case a case of terrorism, rather than to be sensitive, deeply disturbed.

What should be pointed out is, if it was not to date, is that the Abu Sayyaf is a group that has broken away from the MILF, united into a loose group and waged kidnapping victims when it was one of foreign missionaries. In recent years it has been known as a kidnap-and-beheading hostages, is rumored chieftains' a also a kidnap people and demands ransoms. It is not an ideological or religious group, it is a criminal gang. It is not key to the al-Qaeda, it is a franchise operation. With the exception of the Jolo in the 1990s, and the ex-Mafia connected renegades that pressed on Jesse villages in the late 1990s, indeed, it is known the kidnap group that have been preying on the Chinese in Metro Manila.

Kidnappers do vomit terror; but Gracia Burnham, not the kin of Charlene Sy. This does not make them terrorists, that does not make mourning their hostages a false against terrorists.

The case of Gracia Burnham are fine and has a failure of government to ensure peace and order, the case of the Abu Sayyaf is five and has a failure of government to stop criminal gangs. Muslim and Christian, no common or circumstances from turning this country into a haven for kidnappers and hostage-takers.

There is only one thing that has been known to set people free, as Burnham's own heroine book once. That is the truth.

Amor propio?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cavanaugh

AT THE RECEPTION after the President's State of the Nation Address, a number of people expressed some puzzlement about GMA's claim that she had the distinction of winning the biggest majority among elected presidents of this country. One of the journalists who was invited Ambassador Nasrudin Sharma, who thought the former President Estrada held that distinction in 1998. So I myself didn't catch that part too well. I rang up Ambassador Sharma's residence immediately and he explained where he confusion lay.

Nasrudin said the Indian ambassador was correct in the sense that Erap won the largest majority as a candidate, garnering about 15 million votes. But perhaps the smart but brilliant mind of the closest friend, now ex-Senator, Joe Ejercito supporting actress Luz Vina 12 when she got about 12 million, and Nasrudin said one reason was the increase in the size of the electorate.

* * *

I asked Nasrudin to explain his published opinion that the greatest case filed by opposition candidates in the May 10 polls was the protest filed before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal eight vote at least 10 years to complete. He opined that apart from the fact that protest cases in the Philippines are usually long-drawn affairs, with complicated procedures, take an enormous length of time, what complicates this case is that there can be no "mathematical revision." Thus, he said, a revision of the PET's decision would have to be made by the court of appeals, and an appeal might even be made to the Supreme Court. This is because there is no thing wrong in this country and there were places where PET can even find out their winning margins. I asked GMA's lawyers if there is a way to count to recount a protest case and he said that as the lawyers hear that would involve 15 December.

Given all these and the fact that there numerous arguments, Senators Miguel Zubiri, Angara and Aquilino Pimentel, are sure busy with their re-united careers in the Senate 13 members, meaning that they need to encourage the members from Bicol, I felt keeping mum on the opposition candidacies filed their protest at all, is it merely amor propio? Then too, couldn't PET have filed without Legarda, or vice versa, not together, thus choosing the one with the stronger prospect of winning the protest?

* * *

I'm glad that Lt. Gen. Efren Dominguez, chief of the AFP Northern Luzon Command, decided to take the trail by the horns, hopefully for the last time. He was accused by a local resident in Ilocos of having colluded with the rebs based in the following the mutilation-slaying of Gloria Sorolla, and receiving money in exchange for allowing them to escape the military siege in Lantapan, Bukidnon, in June 2002. The lawyer-client claimed in a sworn statement that Dominguez "met with the rebels to discuss the case" and "even offered me an opportunity to settle the case out of court."

* * *

Dominguez was accused of allegedly compromising the welfare of his men and the AFP in exchange for P25 million, given supposedly right to the back of Sorolla's daughter Dahlia Rodriguez and their relatives' escape. At first, they insisted would be blood money. But it had told a relative, who was contacting the generals case before the Commission on Appointments, nothing could be more calculated than that accusation—that the AFP has politicians ever or wars to make money than to accept a brief case stuffed with millions on the head of battle.

The accusation apparently came about because Dominguez's wife went to Sorolla's house carrying some money that is every soldier's man knows, officials have to carry some money all the time, in case they need it for operations. There are no PTBs in battle areas.

* * *

At I write at the time, the AFP is really consult family and people in it know who are the issues

Buying (and selling) fair

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHAT if you could, simply by buying something, help poor families improve their lot, communities achieve self-reliance, and the nation as a whole reach a higher level of development?

What if you could, simply by making the right choice while shopping, help promote fair living wages for workers, eradicate child labor, ensure fair working conditions for all workers, especially women workers, and protect the environment?

Well, these aren't "what if's" anymore. Through the years national fair Trade Association (IFAT), fair trade organizations around the world are linking small producers and buyers in an effort to promote trade justice. Fair trade organizations have undertaken other marketing and certification practices that ensure not only a good quality product in an environmentally friendly manner, but that they also pay their workers fairly, provide safe and healthful working environments, and respect the rights of workers to organize.

Indeed, if the "Good Housekeeping" seal has become synonymous with quality and safety, the IMO Global Mark, which certified fair trade products, is also fast becoming a symbol of consumer fair, as the Asian fair Trade Alliance slogan goes: "Quality Choices."

Those are the fair trade guarantees for the 20 members of the local fair trade organization, you would already be helping promote "big" social issues.

CONSUMER awareness of fair trade practices is not such a big thing yet in the country but it's quite ingrained among consumers in Europe, the U.S., and, and taking hold in the United States as well.

Already, such large international outfits like The Body Shop and other Starbucks have established fair trade in their business practices. The Body Shop, a multinational corporation with majority of its products from manufacturers and nonprofit groups in developing countries, helping them develop their product quality and packaging, while making sure that they receive a "social premium," such as supporting orphans or assisting in the development of communities.

Starbucks has a special niche for "fair trade coffee," coffee sourced from manufacturers/producers that have undergone the fair trade certification.

Locally, from a team of the membership of the Philippine Fair Trade Forum, one can be a socially responsible consumer by buying products manufactured by organizations that promote fair trade, under the umbrella of fair trade practices. Among the members are Bahay Tuluyan, Gawad Kalinga, Kalinangan Foundation, Kanlungan Center Foundation, Tahanan ng Kabataan, Tahanan Foundation, Tahanan Village, Tulay sa Pag-unlad, Inc., and Virlanie Foundation.

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The objective of the Global Journey is to raise awareness about fair trade principles and due to, as well as to encourage consumers to buy. The journey is also a means by which IMO members/groups could promote themselves as fair trade organizations and their products as well.

* * *

LIBERATION says the challenges facing fair trade organizations, especially the producers, is to upgrade their quality, their "capacity to meet mainstream standards."

"Producers need affordable principles, after all, are two reasons to produce products that are of double quality or worse, unsafe and unsanitary.

Part of the goals of fair trade, after all, is to give their products an "edge," where the consumer, all things being equal, will be convinced to buy fair trade products because not only are they of good quality and competitive price, but the business dealings behind them is in a sound pond.

Unfortunately, under present circumstances, buying fair trade products is not always the most practical choice for consumers. Quality of the same or better quality than their commercial counterparts. In terms P10s have their work cut out for them, he invites hands for the consumer's eye and wallet, good intentions are not enough.

Some notes on Muslim Mindanao

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Randy C. Mariñas

IT is believed that slaves or the people of Sibuguey were descended from the Chinese. Sometime it is said that two Chinese clerks who were brothers quarreled and one of them was forced to flee. The persecuted accompanied him and then settled in Basilan, then called Tagaima from a river of the same name.

The chief was called Paguian Tinalig. He was followed by his cousin Alimomin who installed in Basilan while Tinalig left for Sulu where he was appointed Rajah Muda or heir apparent. When the Spaniards pacified Basilan, Tinalig agreed to acknowledge Spanish rule in exchange for undisturbed possession of Sulu which he had founded.

In the meantime, Alimomin married Princess Piyang Dyanah, a daughter of Sultan Kudarat, the king of Mindanao, for his wife Intung, a Sulu woman. With this relationship, he enthroned the Muslim faith.

Encouraged with ambition and encouraged by his father-in-law who promised support, Alimomin invaded Sulu and attempted to murder Tinalig. Alimomin failed, because it was said the press supporting Tinalig's forefeet deserting the ground with the sea.

Tinalig then declared war on the Basilan king after seeking help from the Spanish authorities in Manila who sent two armed boats. Unfortunately, the boats arrived late. As Tinalig's army approached Basilan, Alimomin left upon them and completely routed them. Tinalig died in the fighting, and by the time the Spanish reached, there was no one left to their consternation in Manila.

Alimomin's son Bantilan married Princess Bajah Bongsa succeeded Tinalig. But Alimomin made alliances with Mindanao and Borneo, intending to form his own, as once known as Sulu by the Spaniards.

The earliest records relating to Mindanao in the archives is about a proposal made in 1646 to Governor Francisco de Sarandia for a reconnaissance, from the Southeast, to conquer Mindanao. It took seeking to receive an answer from Manila that the

Silent presence

THE HOUSE of silence can be deafening. Love in silence can be most unbearable. To those who must find love enough verbal expression, silence is the cold air that chills the heart to stone of loneliness.

This was not the case with my father. Everyone who had met my father always said that he was a quiet man. He had the distinction of a wise man who listened to all and said what is needed.

His silence spoke much louder than the few "I love you's" that he ever said. His love was always his, even when he was not physically present.

One way he expressed it was through his self discipline. He valued up the highest hill in the family, but it was worth every pain because we knew that most of his calls were made to calm ourselves family. He rarely voiced out his preferences to call. The few text messages he would send were very concise. "Where are you?" "How are you doing?" "Please take care of yourself" were the most common messages I received from him. His love could be felt in every text.

I then wondered why he was so quiet. I suppose he always felt good intentions come from words that heard. He relies on minimal words to express himself. He was a man, but is a man individual who works for it, who was beyond the punishment of the world and usually preserves in doing the right things, not to be popular ones, who will make the real change.

One time we had a fight because he didn't take the medicines for his diabetes. I ended up blaming him as negligent and asking, "Gusto mo po ba?" Despite knowing that he'd rather be without" as I left his room.

Not one for intimate talks, I texted him: "I'm sorry, Dad, it's just that we have so much to worry about. Because we like long for me. I love you very much."

His reply was quick: "I forgive you."

The week before his death, it happened again. We had the same fight, but this time I would swear that he was very tired. After I expressed my apology, he replied tersely, "It's ok."

Troubled, I emailed his cousin repeatedly asking sorry and asking if he was mad. Cousin replied that because he knows got much to say, "it's nothing. I'm just very tired."

It wasn't uncommon for him to feel tired. I knew what the issue was doing to him. His dear Sunday he seemed to be unusually tired. Maybe it was a premonition, or a very important case was bothering him, but I had never found so much for this father.

The monstrous pounding his death was a testament to the beautiful love he had for our family. My father suffered a most gruesome death. He was shot at close range five times in the head and his brains were shattered. He should have just dropped dead on his instantaneous death.

But to avoid hurting people on the street, my father still managed to swerve the car into the side of a ditch and not further falling on the street. And he lived for more than two hours more despite his wounds.

I've heard doctors and many others say that with the injuries he sustained, he had for our family my

Characters in government

Do government executives have character? Or are they characters?

A government executive's character comes from the pool of qualities that make up his unique personality. Specifically, if a government executive has character, he or she is courageous and determined, strong, or so on, but going to bore this website on one of outrages. And he or she is determined to institute changes in the civil service, if needed.

But instead of having characters, many of them are characters, meaning, persons who are interesting, unusual or amusing...in such government agency there are directors who have the interesting practice of reporting for work late, by two hours and leaving one office early by an hour. Interesting because idiot, study they have a talented or distinctive sense of time, which makes them unable to lead by correct example.

Some have the unusual habit of reading all the local tabloids before they start working, instead of doing their work. Ditto before reading the dailies supplied by the government.

But the most amusing behavior of government directors is their tagging documents the contents of which break all the rules of grammar and usage. They do this daily without appearing dictatorial or domineering.

—ELADIO, 33 J. Fanning St., Santa Salvacion, Quezon City

LETTERS

Revive Emergency Employment Administration

THE COUNTRY'S unemployment problem has become a many boil on the nation's face. If not properly dealt with soon, its severity would be nasty, and the tensions and pains the nation's economic system would be unbearable.

I wonder how President Macapagal-Arroyo's cabinets her chiefs that a million jobs were created last year and millions more are on the final horizon of her 10-point agenda. The statistics and data, much less the paychecks, are hard to find.

In the face of this harsh reality, we call for the immediate revival of the Emergency Employment Administration under DOLE, this time focused solely on the task of immediately creating the jobs that Macapagal-Arroyo promised. It was promised after a similar ineffective program of US President FD. Roosevelt during America's Great Depression in the '30s.

At the least DOLE—the "new" DOLE shall have the responsibility and accountability to give employment to every able-bodied Filipino of working age, to shall be made to report to congress every six months about who, where and when people were given jobs, the way Alan Greenspan, chair of the Federal Reserve Board, twice a year reports to the Capitol on the economy of where the US economy is heading.

The "old" EEA, administered by guerrilla war hero Tony Aduviso, launched job creation projects from Bantayan all the way to Balut.

Thus, in Manila, tens of "emergency" were employed to use brooms and muscle to clean streets and creeks. The brownouts was cleaned and spruced up.

In Mindanao, Cebu, a Youth Conservation Corps camp rose up where out-of-school youths were given citizenship training and tasked to plant trees.

Food bridges and rural roads were built in Mindanao, Northern and in many other provinces. Substitute projects helped. Bakeshaft harvest more. Working students were able to finish their college courses. Some graduates, particularly engineers and accountants, gained valuable work experience the hours work.

A budget deficit should not prevent the creation of a new EEA. A portion of our lawmakers' P322 billion pork barrel must be withdrawn, added to fund the program. As a profound compromise, all EEA projects shall be swallowed by lawmakers.

I was a product of the EEA, without which my life would not be what it is now. Mine temporarily, in the EEA saved and revamped the country's human resources, via flippers' men, which cost political leaders seems to take for granted so much.

Human building was the other EEA theme. Its logo featured a pick and a shovel, denoting hard and serious work.

—REYES, EDUFIL, San Francisco Bay Area, USA, bflimpact777@aol.com

SAI Building collapse: a warning

Will continued the my officials of Manila for covering a worse tragedy in the collapse of the SAI Building in Divisoria. The collapses could have resulted in numerous deaths had the city officials not acted soon enough.

The collapse may have provided television with primetime news entertainment, something they decrepit they could only see through Discovery Channel. Reporting had should now tasks as complacent. The Philippines is an earthquake prone country. While television cameras provide the cues that and time when the next one will happen, it is reasonable to assume that we could experience a serious earthquake in the near future.

Several areas of Metro Manila are prone to liquefaction during a strong earthquake. The last major earthquake in July 1990 may have resulted in little damage to the metropolis. During recent to the epicenter, Baguio, Dagupan and Cabanatuan were spared affected.) However, since then, numerous high-rise buildings, especially business and residential condominiums have been constructed in Metro Manila and regional cities such as Cebu. The collapse of the SAI Building raises a question on whether the buildings are "earthquake safe."

Subway has had a series of to-zero earthquakes in the last ten years. While many of its high-rise buildings collapsed, the Tarlac government had to review its building codes and increase new measures to prevent loss of human lives.

The collapse of the SAI Building should prompt our building officials and the government to act quickly. If the existing high-rise buildings meet our seismic building code standards. According to engineers and architects, we have one of the most advanced building codes in the world. If this was followed by our developers, we have nothing to fear. Otherwise, we may have a tragedy waiting to happen in our hands.

—MYRA DOMY VILLAFUERTE, Ph.D., Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology, College of Science, University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City

Highest form of security

THE COLUMN of Cross D'Dayo on the environment (PDI, 7/22/04) was like a ray of light in the tangle of Philippine politics. For truly, environmental security is the highest form of security. It is the one that will help our governments to heed the challenge for a clear environmental policy. Unfortunately, the President's US point agenda had not a single word on the environment.

On the other hand, the courage and passion of pro-environment lawyers, like the well-known Antonio Oposa Jr., should embolden more members of the legal profession, as well as all Filipinos, to actively take role as custodians of the environment and stakeholders in this one Earth.

—REV. ARLENE M. BENEDICO, Nueve Otto Ayala Triangle, Makati City

Loose impressions

LAWYER Peter Magpayo is said in his letter, "Dearly but the language matters" (PDI, 7/19/04). "I am not defending Archbishop Oscar Oruga, but I think he did not mean to give the impression that those who are of homosexual." I guess one is to say that "I believe that the term GMO does not connote a bad meaning, much less something immoral, unless one has a double-entendre or overly fertile imagination."

The professional name of GMA notwithstanding, I wonder if Magpayo is aware of what a typical GMA is like. Or, in fitting, if one member of he believes that the human parents along Quezon Avenue and Roxas Boulevard are legitimate health candidates. Or if he believes that the "new" GMO does not connote a bad meaning?

Said the bishop, "Their embarrassing assignments: entertain the President's husband and his close associates." Cruz noted to the press. "They were not so familiar with the games and uncertainties. That's very crazy."

"Embarrassing," "Weary"—long gone Magpayo took the words up in the dictionary.

Magpayo ends by suggesting that "the Regent girls should not allow themselves to be misled into believing that their impression that the words are their exclusive term is being called GMOs." I suggest to him that Magpayo should not allow himself to be misled into believing that the archbishop was challenging Christ's saying that he imputed homosexual purposes to the Pagpaw girls' words that night.

—RENE SIVERIO, mike_siverio@hotmail.com

Muslim casualties

EVERYBODY needs to be aware of the horrendous mortality rate in the Muslim world.

As a senior biological scientist, I have been carefully researching global mortality throughout history to see examples. I looked into the "excess mortality" in all countries, using 100 data. "Excess mortality" is the difference between actual deaths in a country and deaths expected in a similar but peaceful society with the same demographics.

The results are startling and horrifying. Thus the "excess mortality" in prepondering Muslim countries is 10 million for the period 1990-2000.

This death toll is about one hundred times that of the Jewish Holocaust (six million victims) and of the Stalin era (twenty million victims). Muslims in British-ruled Bengal (but not Muslim Pakistan and Hindu victims).

The proportion that World should have been dealing with the Muslim world ranks between good evil and universal—rather than with the mix of denial, neglect, hostility, malignant interference and sustained violence that have helped cause this horrendous and unnecessary "Muslim death."

Of course, ignoring massive human disasters such as this will simply yield more of the same. A humane future will require truth, peace and reconciliation.

—DR. GRAHAM PUGH, 29 Dixon Street, Macleod, Melbourne, Victoria 3085, Australia

Banning cell phones in schools

THERE are reports that the Department of Education is going to ban mobile phones in schools purportedly to prevent gambling among students.

A cell phone is used by students to communicate with friends and family. It is a learning tool which has to be maximized by educators. If it is outlawed for gambling by students in students' private schools, what about the majority of our disciplined students the right to use it for communication, learning and harmless entertainment?

The role of cell phone in enhancing human productivity is very much recognized today by banning them in schools, Deped is even losing teachers and school administrators from snatching students the right way of using their technology.

Deped's solution to the gambling problem is simplistic, not creative and irresponsible. It is the exact opposite of its mandate to nurture and guide young learners to be responsible individuals. It sends the wrong message to students that schools are divorced from the real world where use of cell phones is pervasive and, hence of the class, a necessity.

Every innovative technology, like the television and the internet, can either enrich or pollute the minds and behavior of children. Cell phones, too, can be used as a tool for learning or for unwanted deeds, like gambling. Deped's ban is banning TV or the internet in schools despite studies showing their negative effect on the reading skills of students. Why ban cell phones when its pedagogic role can be maximized in schools?

If Deped wants solid proof about the effectivity of cell phones as a tool for communication and learning, it only needs to remember that Ms. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo succeeded the presidency in 2001 through a spontaneous gathering of people at EDSA, which was facilitated by texting.

—ELEANORE PALACIOS, Vice President, Makati ng Bayan Youth Party, 42-E Apao St., Brgy. Dona Josefa QC

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All letters for publication are are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Spain's pullout from Iraq was a campaign promise

THIS is in response to Belinda Olivares-Cunanan's column about the New York Times' commentary regarding the pullout of Spanish troops from Iraq. To set the record straight, Ms. Olivares-Cunanan should be reminded that the public was in overwhelming majority against administration before during the election campaign (before it was voted into power) to the Spanish senate, the majority of whom were—and still are—against the Iraq war. Where the previous administration, not the incumbent during the campaign, tried to shift the blame for the bombing to the local terrorists organizations, the Spanish people "punished" it for the lie.

Of course, I fully support President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to pull out. The Bush administration is, after all, only about investments in the beginning the president's "moral coalition" stopped his Iraq invasion, a threat primarily designed for domestic consumption (remember November elections). George W. Bush will therefore do everything to prevent international breaking up and from exposing the Iraq war for what it really is.

—YVES SENECHAL, New Jersey, USA

Inquirer

Real Readers. Sent us your comments, suggestions and views on today's news or how it was delivered. Tell us about the topics you are interested in and the things you want to read about. Write to Executive Editor Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc at Inquirer, 185 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City; fax 897-4704; or e-mail to ljm@inquirer.com.ph.

News and Opinion

Still nice. Client are no amateurs. of many dominant-ion found in Iraq. The US want to [illegible] destroy things, chemical facility.—**Rikardo**, Calamba City

It's official. Joseph Estrada's [illegible] can be trusted again! He is speaking as if the US can be trusted against by the international community.—**Dennis Zabellero**, San Pedro

I read your report regarding the US ship the hanging bunker under their sea ports. All I can say is it is a shocking.—**Joppee Parrocha**, Davao

"the seven GMO does not connote a bad meaning"?

Said the bishop, "Their embarrassing assignments: entertain the President's husband and his close associates." Cruz noted to the press. "They were not so familiar with the games and uncertainties. That's very crazy."

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—RENE SIVERIO, mike_siverio@hotmail.com

This intimation of the Santa can be seen as a joke but decision moves to motivation our exploiting boat. very.—**Ricardo Lo**, Manila

Our President should reconsider imposing the new taxes. It will greatly affect the common people.—**Jocelyn Spillman**, Mandaue City

Your news seems to updated, on numerous references.—**Rosalie Sandita**, Caloocan

We are almost about to end the year 2004 but the headlines are still the same. Where are we here GOOD NEWS?—**Paul Gandeza**, Iloilo

There are two major reasons why I read the Inquirer. I consult the Inquirer for news and, They to update the nation.—**Arvin D. Balanasan**, Batangas City

Very good and in-depth views.—**Reynold Ryan Garino**, Makati City

Inquirer is my favorite newspaper. I like reading "Inquirer Lite."—**Jonice Rose**, Pasig

I enjoy reading the Inquirer and headlines. It gives comprehensive views from the chance to express themselves and perhaps involve others.—**Marsha R. Bagood**, Cebu City

Metro

That picture of students in Pasig City studying by candlelight during blackouts was quite effective.—**Rosemarie Filamaque**, Mandaluyong

Across the Nation

Most trains are trickers. They should not be more than two days old.—**Ramon**, Batangas

Our mayor is Zoilito Sant Ispo. Joaquin was our former mayor.—**Ruth Mandilas**, Bicol

Why is Inquirer ignoring the kidnap in Basilan victims in PAG? It is an ongoing issue and not one to overlook. 67 lives are worth more.—**Mike**, Davao

We've survived since about 8.—AE

Business

The people that you features in [illegible] victims who started out as nobody but became somebody.—**Crispin dela Fuente**, Cavite

I once have my own compa-ny—[illegible] PDI. I got all the ideas from consistently reading the Business section.—**Raul Reigo**, Zamboanga

InfoTech

Very good, enjoy daily on new tech-nology.—**Jay Ordonez**, Bukod

2003

I love that there are themes now to post your comments. When I was in high school, I didn't have cool ones [illegible] connection).—**Tina Portolano**, D.C.

Good work but please feature more about movie.—**Jhodar Tio**, Cebu

Saturday Special

I hope you can provide a weekly column about animals and pets and how to take care of them.—**Daisy Reyes**, Sparks, Quezon

Entertainment

Why should Eric feel blasted when the announcers in the world-famous world debut of her title?—**Alina Lam**, Marikina City

Only section captures all my interests concerning entertainment. It is the reason I still keep on buying your newspaper everyday.—**Chuck**, Pasig—**Ashley Lazaro**, Pasig, Metro M

Saturday Super

Sat Super is hot!—**Erick Recamara**, Makati

Mike Super is a lifestyle not to be found haunted.—**Marlon Ferrer**, Malabon

Sat Super is outrageous and hot!—**Ulo Arbella**, D.C.

Sat Super keeps me calm and up-to-date with the evening parties in the country. Sat Super rocks is the best!—**Jong de la Fuente**, Manila, Manila

Just, you don't know the consequences of what you're doing!—**Fay Ng**, Makati

Sports

Yeah, basketball is in. Brit last, no Manila or Lacers. When will we go down here in Zamboanga? We also deserve Inquirer Basketball supplements.—**Eileen Tan**, Zamboanga City

Please add 40 Minutes if he can write about his interview with Rodney Fischer on Dragon Island. Thank you!—**Vilma Fraserbos**, Muntinlupa

The WNBA officials just don't know when is season. They only know they can't do anything about your [illegible] not expect that to occurred!—**Ramel Tabag**, Manila

I hope the Sports section would feature on NBA welcomeright champion Allen Iverson. We could they can well serve as a lesson to other teams.—**Ricky Mikel**, Bicol City

I had complete Lamp formation. I will be rejoicing a player who always gives you 100%. I hope he can stay in a smaller team.—**Gary Teh**, Manila

Blue Eagles have always played 100%. This season, they're only 75% because they are forgotten by Larry's coaches.—**R. Yu**, QC.

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Paolo V: Pain is an inspiration

was offered to be in the cast of television shows and movies, including 'Mapa'.'So didn't want to steal

Regal Films and 'My Fluid Balloons!' for Star Cinema, but he had to turn them down because he

us to suffer.

"The time is both my parents," he says. "I enjoy going mountain biking with my dad. Sometimes we play ski

on the beats of which Star Records offered him a contract.

"I wrote the song after I broke up with my girlfriend and I was even crying when I sang it," he confesses. "Pain is one of my greatest inspirations."

Paolo, along with Gabriel and Basta, will be joining Gary V on Aug. 6 at the Araneta Coliseum. Gary V's concert, "Gary V...Thanks Ito!"

The day is also Gary's 40th birthday and his and Angelica's 20th wedding anniversary, as well as Angel's own 25th anniversary to show his Gary fans begins the 30th year of his victory over darkness.

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALL MAKE CINEPLEX

3 CATWOMAN

4 I, ROBOT

5 ELLA ENCHANTED

6 IMELDA

7 BEAUTIFUL LIFE

ARANETA COLISEUM

Aug 5 GARY V CONCERT
Aug 7 UAAP La Salle vs. UE
Aug 8 UAAP FEU vs Ateneo
Aug 12 UAAP Game 2nd ROUND
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Aug 14 UAAP Game 3rd ROUND
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SAN FERNANDO CINEMA

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2004

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

'Jueteng' linked to radioman's slay

By Cristina Arradon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LADAG, CITY—Police are looking at slain broadcaster Roger Mariano's links to jueteng as one of the possible reasons he was murdered Saturday night in San Nicolas town.

The other two possible motives were the murder case reborn Mariano was charged and later cleared as a principal suspect in 1999 and the supposed irregularities in the Ilocos Norte Cooperative which he planned to expose in his nightly radio program, police said.

Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, Philippine National Police chief, ordered him on Monday to personally look into the case of Mariano, who was gunned down shortly after he ended his program on dxLC station here.

Ebdane ordered the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group to handle the investigation through a task force that the PNP has set up.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo also ordered him to look into the murder. "The President expressed her deep sadness over the latest killing of a mediaman. She wants us to do everything we can to minimize the attacks against the press," Ebdane said.

After a closed-door briefing with Senior Supt. Rolando Felizco, Ilocos police director, Ebdane proceeded to the Nicolas' where Mariano was roughed while heading home in his motorcycle.

Motorists say found dumped on a national road while his motorcycle pleaded into a nearby rice field a few meters from his body.

Felizco said he had asked dxLC station manager Clemencio Lasera, so to compile and produce the recorded tapes of Mariano's popular radio program "Roger Mariano in Action" to help piece together information that could lead the police in the murder's solution.

Before he was gunned down, Mariano was said to have told his media colleagues that he got hold of "some documents" which he would expose if to expose yesterday on his program.

Mariano's belt bag, which contained various tapes, documents and diskettes, was said to have been seen by a reporter fantastic after he was killed.

ROUNDUP

Mary's hands stolen

SIKOG DE CITY—The police are looking into the theft of St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Sikog on two hours. Reports Incidental last July 31, when the head and two hands of the monument's patron saint were stolen. Police said the thief dislocated the wooden grills at the back of the church on Real Street, Pangasan. Senior Insp. Florido Compona, Sikog police chief, said it was easy for the thief to get inside the church due to an ongoing renovation. It said no other valuable was taken except for the hands and head of the image of St. Mary Magdalene, which was displayed on the altar. Compona said the stolen items were made of Carrara and are worth P50,000. Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Militiaman slain

ANGELES CITY—A militiaman was killed in an encounter on July 27 between government troops and suspected communist guerrillas in Hacienda City, Negros Occidental. The military report identified the fatality as Regie Fernandez, 35, of Tabalay, and a member of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit. About 30 soldiers belonging to the 94 d Infantry Battalion based in Cauayan town chanced upon 20 suspected members of the New People's Army at Sitio Cappy, Barangay Cansimbanan, Cauayan. The rebels reportedly opened fire on the soldiers. Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Another PNP exec buried

CALAMBA CITY—Senior Supt. Nicolas Jose Jaymalin, former Calamba City police chief and head of the provincial office of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, was buried last July 31 at the Catholic cemetery in Barangay Tuquerres. His last rites started with a mass at Immaculate Conception Parish in Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay. He was then brought to Santa Cruz, where he resided before it was brought to the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame. During his stint in Manila, Jaymalin had been active in the government's anti-kidnapping campaign. Ding dela Cruz, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Bank heist in Bataan

BALANGA, Bataan—Robbers took more than P1,000,000 from the Philippine National Bank branch in Barangay San Ramon here last week. Vilma Villanueva, branch manager, told police the suspects entered the bank by destroying the roof. The robbers, police said, used acetylene torch to destroy the roof. Villanueva said the suspects bound and other working materials left inside the bank. Investigators placed the time of the robbery between 9 p.m. on July 29 and 7:30 a.m. on July 30. Jhaj Elefante, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Life term for robber

BAGUIO CITY—A judge last week sentenced a man to life imprisonment after he was found guilty of robbing and killing a police informant here three years ago. Judge Fredwin Aquino of the Regional Trial Court Branch 7 in Tuba sentenced Rolmel Yap-ad to pay the family of Philip Maldicer Jr., an informant of the National Bureau of Investigation, P1 million in damages and an additional P50,000 in moral damages. Prosecutors charged Yap-ad and three other suspects, accused of robbing the Maldicer family in Sitio Ibiwas on July 13, 2001. Edwin Ouro, the Maldicers were best mobile phones, a Canon camera and P1,200 in cash. Maldicer was killed by gunshots while Yap-ad, accompanied by Edgar Ouro and Elmer Ibanez, Ibiwas was convicted of robbery and homicide charges in 2003 while two were still at large. Karol Talboston and Stalliner Dag, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Electricity back in Samal

DAVAO CITY—The Davao del Norte Electric Cooperative (Danece) restored electricity power to the island Samal on July 31 after it suffered a power outage that lasted for 48 hours.

Engineer Ermelina Sison officer Noel Empalmo said the repair of the damaged marine cable was finished at around 7:40 a.m. Thursday, resulting in the power restoration. Empalmo said the cable was damaged by an anchor on the 30 days after the inter-island cargo vessel. Workmen allegedly dragged and destroyed the marine cable on July 14. Because of the power outage, the city lost a total of P20.8 million in potential revenues while the Danece lost an estimated P1.8 million in the damaged power line, he said. The city government also used part of its P10-million calamity fund to purchase a P2.5-million generator that provided power to the city hall, he said. Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. earlier filed a resolution urging the power cooperative to refund the consumers and passed a resolution declaring Samal in a state of calamity to allow Mayor Rogelio Amante to use the calamity fund. Anthony G. Alindo, PDI Mindanao Bureau

SALAMONG ACT
A worker tries to keep his balance in a jeep loaded with scrap materials which he helped collect around Baguio City, a job that barely makes ends meet for him.

Calapan judge appeals for new courtroom

CALAPAN CITY—The municipal trial court judge of this city is appealing for a new courtroom complaining of foul smell, cockroaches and termites in the 50-year-old building that the court is now using.

Judge Manolo Antonio said his request for a new and what he described as unsuitable courtroom was supported by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Provincial Chapter here and Calapan lists who are aware of the near-operative city hall in Barangay Guinobatan. A new legislative building stands beside the now city hall.

"We want that the aged courtroom and detrimental to the presiding judge and the staff are out of the historical and cultural value as in the old city hall as they are losing need for official court transactions," Antonio said in a two-page letter he wrote the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

He said the courtroom is "the usual venue for wedding ceremonies — many times, the place where people's legacies and witnesses assemble ... for daily court hearings."

New location

He suggested that the court branch instead occupy the "entire second floor of the recently renovated Provincial Capitol Building, instead of the old city hall facing the Calapan City Plaza, which was vacated by former Mayor Arturo Pedregosa and his staff."

Governor Pontior suggested that the present city library that occupies the second floor of the new building be relocated to the Nieves Antagonistang Panlalawigan session hall which will have more space should the provincial board agree to vacate it.

He said this was in reaction to the petition of some students of the Jose P. Leviste Memorial National High School who wanted the city library renovated.

Antonio, in another two-page letter to newly elected City Mayor Carlos Espino, said he was grateful to city officials for a plan to build a gymnasium in front of the building.

But the judge said the plan's implementation was unreliable because the city's finances have been depleted. Marlonna T. Hevia, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Suspected brains in killing of Antique doctor arrested

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

SOLO, CITY—The alleged mastermind in the killing of a surgeon in Antique two years ago has been arrested in Cavite.

Policemen from the city's Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (MEGSOT) arrested Manuel "Boyet" Pulido II at about 5 p.m. on July 30 in Bagong Bayan, Silang, Dasmariñas, in Cavite.

A warrant for his arrest was issued by Judge Monina Mesaros of the municipal trial court in San Jose, Antique.

Pulido was brought to the MEGSOT office in Camp Crame and would be transferred to Antique, said an MEGSOT report to the Central Visayas police.

Pulido is facing a murder charge before Branch 11 of the Antique Regional Trial Court for the killing of Carlos Medeiros.

Medeiros, 62, was shot at close range with a 9-mm pistol on Feb. 7, 2002, as he was leaving the compound of the Angel Salazar Memorial Doctors Hospital in San Jose. He died from a bullet that entered before his left ear.

Also charged were Ricardo Aguirre and Hernan Labanon, the alleged gunmen. Labanon was arrested a day after the shooting while Aguirre remains at large.

Labanon confessed on Feb. 8, 2002 that he was hired by Pulido to kill Medeiros for P500,000 because the doctor was trying to fire his wife Jocelyn Pulido, an employee of the Pedro Elizalde Municipal Hospital.

Labanon later retracted his statement, saying policemen tortured him to implicate Pulido.

CEBU CITY BUST

Cops' alleged theft of shabu probed

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The head of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) has ordered an investigation of a report attributed to a suspected drug courier that members of the Maritime Police took two packets of shabu from him.

"That's a serious offense if proven true," said Director General Anselmo Avenido, head of the PDEA.

The Maritime Police of Central Visayas on Wednesday arrested Philly Abao Sobon at Sudlon detachment from 400 Princess of the Stars ferry at Pier 3 here.

The arresting team, led by PO2 Pontio Bandad, declared it seized two packs of shabu weighing about 2 kilograms from Sobon with a street value of about P2 million.

Sobon told police he actually had with him four packs of shabu with each pack weighing about a kilogram each.

Sobon is now detained at the Regional Police Headquarters Center after he was charged with selling and illegal possession of 1,964 grams of shabu, a non-bailable offense under the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Sobon said the Maritime police men packed one of the other two big packs.

Supt. Candelario Pagulilag, head of the PDEA Central Visayas, said Sobon made the allegation before PDEA agents who initially investigated the arrest of the drug suspect.

Pagulilag said he was also surprised why Maritime police did not inform the regional PDEA of the operation.

Avenido said that under the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act, all law enforcement agencies are required to give pre-operation coordination with the PDEA for their drug operations.

Avenido said after the operation, there must be an inventory of the confiscated drugs to prevent the non-declaration of all these.

He said the inventory must be made in the presence of the media, prosecutor, representative of the local government unit and the accused.

Avenido, however, said Sobon's allegation must be verified because based on police experience, most suspects would make up stories to destroy the credibility of the arresting officers.

Senior Supt. Isidro Zarragoza, chief of the Central Visayas Maritime police, admitted the Maritime Police failed to coordinate with the PDEA. But he denied that the policemen stole two packs of shabu.

Zarragoza said they failed to coordinate with the PDEA because of lack of time to do so.

Zarragoza said the vessel arrived at 7 a.m., but his men received about it only at around 4 p.m. He said he was informed of his men's operation in the afternoon of Wednesday.

Zarragoza said his office made the report to the regional PDEA on Wednesday night and they submitted the results the following day.

2 years, 4 votes give barangay new captain

BAGUIO CITY—A village in Mankayan town, Negros Occidental has a new barangay captain after a recount showed that the incumbent lost by one vote, actually won by by one vote in the synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on July 2002.

Judge Evelyn Gregas of the Municipal Circuit Trial Court of Mt Magtalica Municipal town declared William Bilbao winner over Leonardo Gapasi, incumbent village chief of Punta Salong.

In a resolution promulgated on Friday, Gregas said the recount showed that Bilbao defeated Gapasi by a margin of one vote.

Bilbao's lawyer, Irving Sotelo, said Gapasi has 15 days to appeal the decision or it will become final and executory.

Bilbao had filed a petition for recount against Gapasi, questioning the returns from three precincts in Punta Salong during the synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on July 15, 2002.

The Board of Canvassers declared Gapasi the winner by a margin of only one vote with 752 votes and 751 for Bilbao.

Bilbao, however filed a petition, claiming that there was one erroneous count of votes in Precincts 58-A, 51-A and 63-A.

In the resolution, Judge Gregas said that after the recount, it was "positive clear" that Bilbao won the winner with 760 votes, while Gapasi having 754 votes. Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Burnham didn't clear AFP, court video shows

From page A1

shooting. "Tanauland," indicating she was upholding the detention.

Dr Cecile exulted in hand talking the court—"tell the court!"—that Burnham herself had referred to the alleged commander between some military officers and the Abu Sayyaf in a book she wrote about her experiences as a hostage of the bandit group.

Less than two minutes

This prompted Fabiana in order the court to recognize and to record the subsequent exchanges between defense and prosecution lawyers.

The same exchange among the lawyers did not even take two minutes—all of the roughly three hour court proceeding.

Burnham was silent all through out the exchange, looking in Dumlao's direction as if waiting for instructions.

The judge told reporters yesterday that she examined the prosecution's objection to the Gamboa papers, but over the objection since because she had found it irrelevant.

She explained that Burnham was called as a witness to establish the participation of detained Abu Sayyaf members in the kidnapping of the American missionary, her husband Martin and 20 others.

Fidgety prosecutor

In her book, Burnham said that during their captivity, the hostages were told—she did not say by who—that Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Sabaya was "abducting and detaining" Senior AFP general over the rescues.

According to the book, Sabaya, who was later killed by soldiers, was willing to give the general his payout but the officer supposedly wanted US$500,000 in exchange.

Toward the end of the video showing yesterday, the CIDG's Reyes began to look fidgety, his eyes fixed on the latter image of Burnham on the screen of the small TV set sitting on the table.

Dolorfino lawyer Oliver Lozano had told the hearing on Tuesday that Burnham never mentioned the defense question about whether or not there was a connection between the military and the Abu Sayyaf.

But Palomina expressed doubt about how Lozano could say this, saying Lozano had already left the courtroom by the time Burnham was asked to be questioned.

Palomina said Lozano was even cited in court for abandoning the proceedings.

Rebuttaling, which last week praised Burnham for her supposed statements purportedly showing the military's complicity and warning that the Abu Sayyaf "was singing a different tune nowadays."

"The President would like to thank Gracia Burnham for her assistance in the proceedings," Ms Arroyo's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said in a briefing.

In her statement last week, the President thanked Burnham, saying "her testimony upholds the integrity and unanimous order of our Armed Forces."

During the media leave the DOJ prosecution team tried to save face while admitting that Burnham had given no testimony implicating the military.

"There was no direct testimony from Gracia Burnham that there was no collusion. But just the same, there was no categorical statement that there was collusion," Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño said.

Senior State Prosecutor Leo Dacera and Reyes were with Zuño at the briefing. Senior Lozano, the state prosecutor who quoted Burnham as saying that there had been talk in the hostage camp that the military and the bandits, was not present.

Zuño said Lozano would not be contacted.

"That must be the basis of Senior Lozano when he said that Gracia Burnham heard the military—that during the direct testimony, she had all the opportunity to say if there was collusion but she did not say anything about it," Zuño said.

Zuño said that during a pre-trial briefing, Burnham close by said DOJ prosecutors that she had no direct knowledge of the alleged collusion.

"She told us categorically that she had no personal knowledge about any collusion between the military and the kidnappers," Zuño said.

Burnham was rescued from captivity in June 2002 during a military operation in which her husband and Filipino nurse Deliberata Yap were killed. With reports from Philip Tubeza, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Michael Lim Ubac

US sounds alarm on al-Qaida attacks

From page A1

would remain at yellow, or elevated, elsewhere in the United States.

The "high" or code-orange, the third level in the new color-coded alert system, it represents a "high risk of terrorist attacks."

The government's warning came four weeks before the Republican National Convention in New York, which will formally nominate President George W. Bush and which is expected to draw more than 50,000 people, including top government officials and many heads of state.

"We're not going to let threats or this kind of information terrorists threaten America," Ridge said, despite the stated alert level. "We're going to keep on doing America."

Ridge said Clarke was not quoted in information pertaining to any imminent attack, but The New York Times quoted unnamed federal officials as saying it would likely be in the "near term."

'Excruciating' details

A senior intelligence official described "excruciating detail" and two scenarios planning "replica" of al-Qaida."

The official said the intelligence gathered from several sources indicated surveying had been done to identify security in and around these buildings; the flow of pedestrians; the lines; planes; the terrorists, since how to make contact with explosives and how to hide them; inspection of the buildings; traffic patterns; location of hospitals and police departments; and which times of the week present less security at the buildings.

In describing the detail of the intelligence, the official cited those examples of detail possible photos had accumulated, undercover police, time traffic counts of 14 people for instance on each side of the street for a total of 28 people; the same photos might not be for example, each week, and also the construction of some buildings might prevent them from taking place.

The official said he had not seen each extraordinary detail in his 24 years in intelligence work.

The US warning was based on a cache of recently obtained information, including photos, drawings and working documents.

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, the British government also said it was monitoring the "real and serious" threat from terrorists, but didn't warn of any specific raid.

Briefing reporters in New York, Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said that starting Monday, trucks would be banned from the Manhattan-bound side of the Williamsburg Bridge, which connects Brooklyn and lower Manhattan.

Commercial vehicles also were banned from the inbound of the Holland Tunnel from New Jersey, among other measures.

In Newark, police set up metal detectors surrounding the Prudential Center building, linked with security scouts and road-summit office.

Echoes of 9/11

The United States has tagged al-Qaida as the mastermind behind the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in Washington and New York by militants using hijacked commercial planes, about 3,000 people died in the attacks.

A US. congressional panel probing 9/11 and the Clinton administration was found in large part on documents very evidence obtained by the Central Intelligence Agency documents, but counterterrorist operations, working in especially under secret and other countries.

Ridge said it would be up to New York City officials to decide whether to name as the highest level, red. The city has remained on orange since the attacks of 9/11.

'Wet usual chatter'

The Daily potential remains through the Nov. 2 elections, Ridge said.

He said the government took the unprecedented step of naming particular buildings because of the level of specificity of the intelligence.

"This is not the usual chatter. This is multiple sources that involve information," Ridge said.

He said the government decided to notify the public because of the specificity of details it had obtained.

"The quality of this intelligence, based on multiple reporting streams, its credibility, its specificity, its timeliness, and it is alarming in both the amount and specificity of the information," Ridge said.

Ridge acknowledged that protecting these buildings, located in highly populated areas, would require additional security measures, especially because these kinds of cars and trucks travel through those cities daily.

Barricades, checkpoints

"Cut and truck bombs are one of the most difficult tasks we have in the way we serve," Ridge said, adding that new security procedures were already being put in place.

An NYSE spokesperson declined comment on any security beyond the regular security in all of its New York buildings.

A spokesperson for Prudential said the company had increased its security before the alert.

A White House spokesperson, Erin Healy, said the intelligence on the threat was "very new, coming in during the last 72 hours."

Bush's 'final decision'

"The President made the final decision today agreeing with the recommendation of Secretary Ridge to go ahead and raise the threat level to these seven areas," Healy said.

Indicating to terrorists who are hostile to the United States, Ridge said, "Iconic economic targets are at the heart of their interest." He said workers at the specific buildings mentioned should get podium [illegible] and be aware of their surroundings and remain alert as they go to work.

Intelligence officials said they believed al-Qaida associates had toured the targeted structures repeatedly both before and since the 2003 attacks, collecting detailed information on everything from building security measures and architecture to pedestrian traffic, access points and nearby shops that could provide cover.

An official said the intelligence material gathered got down to details, such as the glass thickness of the buildings, when and how many security staff were on duty and the location of elevators and parking.

Test run

Officials involved with the investigation in New Jersey said suspects were found with blueprints of one Prudential site and may have conducted a "test run" for an attack in recent days.

The elevation of the threat level for the financial institutions was triggered by the recent arrest of a Pakistani computer engineer who may have been involved in al-Qaida surveillance efforts. The New York Times said.

His capture in Pakistan several weeks ago led the CIA to the rich lode of information that prompted the terror alert, according to senior US officials.

In Islamabad, Pakistan's information minister said Pakistani intelligence agents found plans for new security against the United States and Britain on a computer seized during the arrest of a senior al-Qaida suspect arrested for the 1998 twin US embassy bombings in east Africa.

The plans were found in a search on the computer of Ahmed Khadir Khalfan, a Tanzanian arrested July 25 after a 12-hour gun battle in the western city of Gujrat, information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said.

"He got a few e-mails from (Saudi-born terrorist Osama) bin Laden, let's attack in the US and UK," he said.

Ahmed would not confirm whether the information was what prompted Ridge to issue his warning about a possible al-Qaida attack on prominent financial institutions in New York, Washington and Newark, New Jersey.

'Treasure trove'

The recently discovered documentary evidence had elevated the significance of other intelligence information gathered in recent weeks that had already been regarded as highly troubling, the officials said.

Much of that information had come from al-Qaida detainees in Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia, as well as Pakistan, and some had also been pointed to a possible attack on financial institutions, they said.

The documents amounted to "a potential treasure trove," US officials said.

Some of the arresting financial planners, leaders said US officials said, had been under surveillance since 1999 but had been left alone to build

2 Filipinos among Magsaysay awardees

From page A1

ock in 1958, 38 have been won by the Filipinos—23 individuals and seven institutions—the second highest number by country, only only to India, which has 42. There are now a total of 256 awardees.

The 2006 awardees will each receive a certificate, a medallion bearing the likeness of the late Philippine president Ramon Magsaysay in whose honor the award was established, and a cash prize of $50,000 (P2.5 million).

Unwavering

"Ms Yacoe is being recognized for her building the people's confidence in governmental through service of exceptional integrity and vigor, and her unwavering pursuit of the rule of law in the Philippines," the foundation said yesterday in a statement.

Abubakar, 41, helped the Bantayan Mangyan people of Mindoro build their dream school in the nine years that he worked with them, starting in 1988. True to basis, he has announced he'll have not taking a single cent of the cash award for himself.

Jiang, a retired military doctor, is being cited for "his keen stand for truth in China, sparing life-saving measures to confront and contain the deadly threat of SARS."

Privately-run fellow farmers "in demonstrating that self-reliant local enterprises, supported by active community learning, are the path to rural prosperity by."

Sawad is receiving the award for "his spiritual leadership in the wake of the Marcos dictatorship was toppled in the first Edsa "people power" revolt in 1986. For a few months after the uprising, she was a member of the Presidential Commission on Human Rights.

She made a bid for the Senate in 1995, but lost. In July 2003, shortly after the ouster of President Joseph Estrada, she was appointed PCGG chair.

Early last year, Yoroe came under fire for her conduct in the sequestration case against businessman Roberto Ongpin, a former Marcos Cabinet minister. She suffered a stroke in January and, weeks later, underwent surgery for a cancerous tumor in her breast.

In May of the same year, she spent time in a hospital intensive care unit for severe pneumonia and kidney malfunction. Miraculously, she recovered and resumed working at home in July. There she reported back to the PCGG office in September.

She is currently in the United States for a medical check-up and is due back on Aug. 20—just in time for the formal 90th presentation ceremonies on Aug. 31 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Unconditional

Abubakar said that because true he was giving all of his cash prize "to the community"—$50,000 to a scholarship grant for indigenous college students. "But first two years will host the Mangyan Mangyans in bordertowns, then it will be extended to other tribal communities all over the Philippines."

Still, the rest of the money, Abubakar said, he would start a cemetery for indigenous, side by side with a center for grass-roots leadership and with special focus on the IPs (indigenous peoples), particularly the Mangyan-Bangyuan.

"This is extraordinary not for myself but more for the community leaders who have shared with me their dreams and visions for their communities and for the children," he stressed. "These visions become my guide in setting up the Bayhon program in Bilingasan school in Mindoro, now called the Bayhon Center for Human and Environmental Development. It is they who should be recognized."

Abubakar, a native of Legaspi in the Bicol City, also cited the scholarship grant for indigenous college students. "The

METRO

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Marine sarge gets life for 'Baron' slay

By Leila B. Salaverria and Christian V. Esguerra

A JOINT courts-martial panel on Friday convicted a sergeant of the Philippine Marine Corps of murder for the killing of Rolando Baron, a suspected kidnap-for-ransom leader, in Cebu City in 2003.

Sgt. Rafael Caroñgo was sentenced to life imprisonment and ordered to pay P100,000 in damages to the heirs of Baron, who was shot dead on Aug. 15, 2003, in Barangay Guadalupe in Cebu City.

Caroñgo's conviction was announced by Col. Jose Mencio Tamayo, chief of the Marine Corps' Public Affairs Office, after the panel deliberated on the case for more than three years.

Tamayo said Caroñgo was found guilty of murder with treachery and evident premeditation.

Caroñgo's lawyer, Lt. Col. Rodolfo Sarmiento, said he would appeal the decision.

Sarmiento said the panel's decision was "unfair" because Caroñgo was only following orders from his superiors when he killed Baron.

Caroñgo's camp

SPORTS

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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■ Singh captures Buick Open /A21

Olympic golden quest resumes

Starting today, the modern world's answer to the ancient search for the gods, dreaming of one day being able to dwell among them in the rarefied territory that is Mt. Olympus.

By Lorenzo Z. Mangaser, Desk Head

GREEK mythology recounts tales of mortals seeking to reach the gods, dreaming of one day being able to dwell among them in the rarefied territory that is Mt. Olympus.

Now, in the very land where such tales of heroes and divinity were born, the Filipino athlete, mortally and temporal being that he is, continues his quest for Olympic stature, safely among the pantheon of gods that inhabit the sporting realm.

The archipelago in the far East has participated in 17 outings of the greatest sporting event since 1924, yet none of the Filipinos have returned from their journey with that one prize they so crave—a medal of gold. They all dived to drums of rapidion heavens, yet 80 years have passed and the bounty includes two silvers and seven bronzes—but still no hint of gold.

In all, 359 athletes in 19 different sports disciplines have so far represented the Philippines in the Summer Games. The biggest Philippine contingent was composed of 64 athletes during the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. The smallest delegation was made up of just one athlete—Josef Hagemeyer, who ran the 100-meter and 200-meter during the 1924 Paris Olympics. The country missed the 1980 Moscow Olympics, refusing to open a concert following the lead of the United States.

The two silver medals were produced by boxers Anthony Villanueva and Mayumi "Diesel" Manco. Villanueva settled for second place in the featherweight division against the Soviet Union's Stanislav Sapozhnikov during the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

Manco repeated Villanueva's feat in boxing in Belgium's Grand Palace in the light flyweight division of the 1996 Games in Atlanta.

The seven bronze medals were netted by swimmer Teofilo Yldefonso, wrestlers Simeon Toribio and Miguel Nebat and boxers Jose "Caloy" Villanueva, Leopoldo Serrano and Fred Galiano.

Yldefonso holds the distinction of being the first Filipino Olympic medal winner when he took home the bronze in the men's 200-m breaststroke event during the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics. Yldefonso is likewise the only Filipino to win more than one medal as he again finished fourth in the same event in the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics.

The Philippines had its biggest haul in 1932 as Yldefonso, Toribio and Caloy Villanueva each won a bronze for their efforts.

OLYMPICS, A12

PRETTY DANE

Rising-star superkarter Kathrine Tegtmeier Rasmussen of Denmark leads the pack in the first lap of the Asian Karting Championship Finals at the Kari Motor Speedway in Coimbatore, India, Monday. Rasmussen finished fifth in the race won by Malaysian Nicholas Leong. AFP PHOTO

Michelle picks up 3rd straight Asian kart win

COIMBATORE, India—Karting sensation Michelle Bonggarmo drove to expected wins as two Filipinos also topped their respective classes in the third leg Sunday of the 2004 Asian Karting Open here.

Bonggarmo of MGM Racing was so dominant she won the prestigious Open class for the third straight time by eight seconds in 16 minutes 41.249 seconds.

The tall, comely daughter of a Zambalefio and an American had consistent enough speed to repel the gutsy racing brats and be pre-final ace.

Malaysian Charlie Chuah clinched it second to 16:51.446, followed by his compatriot Jason Zakaria Shahruzat.

The other Filipino ace was Marcel Thomy, who clinched his third straight victory in Rotax Max Veterans 32ec, and Mindy Aguilar of Bicol-Isinday Racing Team, who emerged the surprise winner in the Rotax Max Juniors class.

Two other members of the RP delegation managed to win podiums.

JP Cardeo, skipper of Via Bicolandia team, was runner-up in the Rotax Max Juniors division while Mathew Gaudinolli of Cebu Karting Group wound up third in the Rotax Max Juniors class.

Gaudinolli appeared headed for a sweep in the Rotax Max Juniors after topping all the qualifying heats and the pre-final race. Changes in track conditions, however, doused down Gaudinolli's bid in the final race.

Despite his disappointing finish, Gaudinolli maintained a lead in the Rotax Max Juniors overall, seven points (14 quotient) over Malaysian Calvin Hengwenguan.

Manotoc playing in British Seniors

TOMMY Manotoc has gifted himself on his 59th birthday anniversary with a trip to England to test his skills against the best of the world in senior golf.

Manotoc flew to London late last week and will participate in the Senior British Amateur Open that tees off tomorrow at The Berkshire Golf Club, where 256 of the top senior amateurs in the world are vying titles.

The first Filipino to compete in the prestigious event will join a field led by former PGA champion Ben Crenshaw, Peter Townsend, Peter Dawson, Gordon Brand Jr., Peter McEvoy, Gordon Simpson, Ian Hutcheon, Ian Mosey, Ian Stanley, Peter Smith, Mike Gregson, Peter Gregson, Peter Benka, Peter Deeble, Peter Hedges, Peter Hedges, Peter Hedges

Federer snares 8th crown for 2004, ties Borg's mark

FEDERER celebrates a point in the second set. AFP

TORONTO—Roger Federer regained his eighth title of 2004 and earned himself a spot in the tennis record books alongside Bjorn Borg with a ride on the $2.76-million Masters Series Sunday.

The Swiss world No. 1, performing to perfection on the country's ancestral clay, needed less than 90 minutes to defeat Andy Roddick, 7-5, 6-3, displacing his Wimbledon finals victory over the American.

The win left Federer with a 57-4 record for the season, including 22 match wins in a row.

He also became the first player since Borg in 1979 to win three titles in a row on three different surfaces—grass, clay and hardcourt.

It is Federer's second winning streak. Before's last three came at Wimbledon (grass), Gstaad (clay) and Toronto.

"Bjorn Borg is my hero," said the 23-year-old. "I've met him once, and I'd like to do so again. He's a great player and a great person. This is something for the history books." Federer admitted that he was exhausted after another trophy-lifting performance, with more challenges looming in next week's Olympic Masters Series in Cincinnati and then the Olympic Games in Athens.

"The tournament is over, and I'm relieved," he said. "It's all over and I can relax for today. I'm very surprised that I won. I came here hoping to get through the early rounds. I'm not just hoping to go on a tear back for the game.

"Sometimes I get the feeling that people think this is normal," added Federer. "It's difficult to keep these streaks going.

"If I'd lost, a lot of media would have been hostile. I'm glad to have won this match. I know what was riding on it." Federer said he experienced bittersweet sensations—winning on Switzerland's national day but also on the second anniversary of the day he learned that former coach Peter Carter had died in a car crash in South Africa.

The American has another title to defend starting Monday at Cincinnati, where he will again be seeded second behind Federer. Roddick acknowledged that his mat coach Brad Gilbert knew a big job ahead. AFP

DAVENPORT serves to Pa Weiss. AFP

Davenport claims 3rd title in row

SAN DIEGO, California—Lindsay Davenport captured her third title in as many weeks, routing French Open champion Anastasia Myskina, 6-1, 6-1, Sunday in the final of the $1.2-million WTA hard-court event here.

The No. 4 seeded American won her second career San Diego title and extended her winning streak to 11 consecutive matches.

Myskina appeared to run out of gas on Sunday after a thrilling two-hour, 28-minute semifinal victory over compatriot Vera Zvonareva the night before.

With Sunday's win, Davenport duplicates her 1998 feat of winning all three legs of the California hardcourt season—round-up events leading into next month's US Open.

In 1998, Davenport went on to win the US Open, the first of her three Grand Slam triumphs.

"It has just been a phenomenal summer so far," said Davenport, who will jump two spots to the No. 2 ranking on Monday after claiming her fifth title of the year. "I'm just so grateful I've been able to play and stay healthy. I'm just really enjoyed it. And hope I can keep it going for a couple more weeks through the Open. The former world No. 1 beat Elena Dementieva in dramatic and younger sister Serena in Los Angeles before beating her 42nd career trophy and collecting $195,000 in that Diego.

Davenport attended just 47 minutes to subdue Dementieva, who revealed on Saturday that she had been suffering from a stomach virus.

After that marathon, the third-seeded Russian couldn't find her legs nor the firepower to challenge the former player on the court. AFP

Stupples prevails; Rosales bags P.7M

SUNNINGDALE, England—Kaven Stupples won the British Women's Open by five strokes on Sunday and became only the third Englishwoman to claim a major championship in the 104-year history of the event despite a bogey on the final hole.

Stupples, who finished one shy of the record 276 set by Laura Davies in 1994, closed with a 71 and an even-par 280 total. Rookie pro cited $111,736 ($57,111,000).

The 31-year-old Stupples opened the round in remarkable fashion with an eagle followed by an albatross before a run of three straight bogies from the 10th through par-four eight.

American Heather Bowery was third on 10 under after a 71, while Mexico's Lorena Ochoa fourth on 12 under after a 72.

Stupples, whose first win as the tennis is a professional was in the LPGA Tour season opener in Tucson, Arizona, is the first Englishwoman to win the title since Penny Grice-Whittaker in 1991. The tournament gained major status three years ago.

Stupples' amazing start—she holed a 15-foot putt for the eagle three at the 488-yard first and then sank a five-iron from 205 yards for the albatross two at the 470-yard second—set the tone for a thrilling afternoon showdown.

But it took three birdies in a row from the 10th for Stupples to finally shake off the launch of challengers and join Laura Davies, who has won four, and Alison Nicholas. The 1997 US Women's Open Champion, as English winners of a major.

"It's absolutely unreal blowing," said Stupples, who equaled the lowest score for a women's major set by Jackie Pegram at the 1999 Bank Nederlanden Dutch Open.

Mimi Rhinehart, the 19-year-old Pace who shot a record 62 in the third round, again showed her huge potential with a 70 and tied for eighth on 1.0 under.

World No. 1 Annika Sorenstam and her defense of the championship with a rather disappointing 71 and had to settle for a share of 12th place. dpa/ap

Singh holds off Daly, captures Buick Open

SINGH kisses his two-shot win the 18th hole. AFP

FLINT, Michigan—Vijay Singh held on for a one-shot victory over John Daly at the Buick Open on Sunday, claiming his fourth title of the year despite a bogey at the final hole.

Playing in the group behind the duo, Singh and Daly dueled through the final round.

Singh withstood a sizzling start by Daly, who claimed the first four holes in five-under, and the Fiji native took the lead for good with a birdie on No. 14.

It was the 15th victory of the year-round Buick Open title for Singh, who opened for a 5-under-par 67 and completed 72 holes at 23-under 265.

"John kind of put a lot of pressure on me to be the early stages, and that was a good birdie," Singh said.

Daly, who ended a nine-win drought earlier this year at the Buick tournament, posted a 66.

Almost not until the battle between Singh and Daly was the pair of Tiger Woods, who tied for third with Europe's Carlos Rivero at 21-under and is still without a victory as a weeks play over this year.

Woods, who did it in the WGC Match Play events this year, could not catch Singh despite four eagles as the 66, including back-to-back 66s on the weekend.

Starting a one-shot lead, Singh pulled his drive on No. 14 under a tree, then appeared to be in more trouble when he left his second shot in the deep rough. AFP

MAT team of 5 set to face Moab challenge

AND THEN THERE WERE FIVE: Marlboro Adventure Team/Philippines members Agustin, Mendoza, Carreon, Soriano and Bondoc with Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. managing director Nelson Marfilena board manager Evangelista and marketing director Maurice Ilio.

Bicolanos power UM past Centro

DEFENDING champion University of Manila bounced back in its own way from Xavier to down Centro Escolar University, 75-68, in the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Nasscu) basketball tournament at the UM gym recently.

The Hawks finished on the hot hands of Jay Gonzaga and Ryan Reynaldo to turn back the Scorpions and claim their third straight win in the nine-team, double-round tournament.

Gonzaga, a 6-foot-five freshman, scorched 17 of his game-high 25 points in the second half, while Reynaldo, a 5-9 guard from Virac, Catanduanes, added 16 points.

UM completed a double fall as the Hawkettes, getting 17 points from Gisselle Nagano, overpowered their Eco counterparts, 74-43, for their second straight win in the high school category.

In other juniors matches, St. Clare College (Caloocan) downed University of Manila, 69-67, to join the shutdown in the tied and RCSOM whipped Holy Angel, 139-63.

STANDINGS	W	L
UM	3	0
FLP	3	1
St. Clare	2	1
CEU	2	1
AMA/CIS	1	1
Univ. of Manila	1	2
EAC	0	2
Xavier	0	2
Sacred Heart	0	2
Holy Angel	0	2

TODAY'S GAMES (4:00 p.m.)
Xavier vs. Sacred Heart (Jr.)
St. Clare vs. Holy Angel (Jr.)
UM vs. Centro (Sr.)
Angel (Jr.)
4:00 p.m.—St. Clare vs. UM (Jr.)
vs. FLP (Jr.)

RAÑOLA. Off to Indian Wells

Rañola lands fifth in Cannes, is RP's newest IM

Final standings:

1-8. Ge Ann Louis Evans, 24 qp; Mathew Glenn, 20; Hidden Taylor, 19.5; 4.5. Chi Shin Hsu, Taiwan, 18; Vitaly Kalinin, Israel, 17; Jorge Cardoso, Chile, 16; Ivan Salgado, Chile, 15; Jose Gonzalez, Chile, 14; Eduardo Rodriguez, Chile, 13; Jose Gonzalez, Chile, 12; Jose Perez, Chile, 11; Jose Gonzalez, Chile, 10; Jose Gonzalez, Chile, 9; Jose Gonzalez, Chile, 8; Jose Gonzalez, Chile, 7; Jose Gonzalez, Chile, 6; Jose Gonzalez, Chile, 5; Jose Gonzalez, Chile, 4; Jose Gonzalez, Chile, 3; Jose Gonzalez, Chile, 2; Jose Gonzalez, Chile, 1; Jose Gonzalez, Chile, 0.

PUERTO. National Master Tyro Rañola won his ninth and final round match Sunday to finish in fifth place and secure his third and last International Master's norm at the Cannes Open chess tournament in France.

Rañola, of Cabanatuan City, outplayed FIDE Master Giacomo Buscaldoni of Italy in just 63 moves, the main output of competitor IM Joseph Sambul and seven others in the tough Swiss system event.

The two Filipinos wound up half a point behind Grandmasters Andrei Sokolov and Vladislav Tkachiev of France and Igor Miladinovic of Greece.

Sokolov won the tournament over Miladinovic and Tkachiev in that order, on superior tiebreak points.

Rañola, who took the scalp of super GMs Bu Xiangzhi and Vladimir Malaniuk in the tournament, finished fifth, a rung behind Pogonina GM Dinko Dizdar, after the tiebreak was applied.

Half a point behind also leader Dizdar overnight, the Lithuanic knocked down Dizdar's Croatian teammate Ivan Sokolov in just 25 moves with Grandmaster GM Efstathios Pidas to finish with 6.5 points like Sokolov. Sokolov eventually ended up eighth, right behind the sixth-placed Pelaez and Indian GM Dronda Sandipan.

Rañola soared up the IM norm as early as the seventh round, according to Filipino international arbiter Jesse Pidlaoan, when he posted 5.0 points. He earned a high performance rating of 2550 in the tournament that lasted 12 days.

Another Filipino entry, IM Ronald Bancod, formed a third Georgian of France to finish with 5 points and then 40th place. Bancod also lost to the eighth-placed Pelaez in the penultimate round.

In other final round matches, Tkachiev stopped Dizdar, Miladinovic weighed Jack, and Sokolov downed GM Bogdan-Lucian of England.

IAN Martino also contributed to this report.

Lady Archers outhustle UP cagebelles

SUPREMEBEE. Kristine Alexa-alen and reverant Khristine Prazis provided the key plays as De La Salle nipped University of the Philippines, 80-55, for its first win in three games in the UAAP women's basketball tournament Sunday at the Araneta Gym.

Alexa-alen had 20 points, 11 from beyond the arc, while Prazis, a four-year reverant, added 14 points while grabbing 11 rebounds for the Lady Archers who dealt the Lady Maroons their first setback in three outings.

Jaclyn Cruz paced UP with 25 points and 10 rebounds.

Defending champion Ateneo blasted the Eastern University, 74-48, and moved into a tie with idle National University at two-and-one-night win.

Ike Eustern had finished the season's first upset win a 67-62 decision over De La Salle on open-

STANDINGS	W	L
Women		
Ateneo	2	0
NU	2	1
UP	1	1
FEU	1	1
DLSU	1	2
UST	1	2
UE	0	3
High School		
UST	3	0
UPHS	2	1
UE	1	2
Ateneo	1	2
DLSZ	1	2
Adamson	1	2
NU	1	4

ing day.

In the other match, University of Santo Tomas routed Silliman, 69-47.

In high school play, UST annihilated its rivals to five with a 73-67 victory over Adamson every as UP-Diliman coasted after its 83-48 rout of NU.

UPHS improved to 3-1, overtaking idle defending champion Ateneo at 3-2.

The UE Junior edged La Salle-Zobel, 62-59, and improved to 3-4, while sending the once-pivotal Stingers to their fourth loss in six games.

AFTERMOD'S Paolo Bugia runs into Bl/Mudsang of UE in a second overtime game won handily by the league-leading Eagles, 74-58.

SPORTSWATCH

Xavier, Ateneo capers post victories

ANGEL Sumaoang drawn scored their fourth straight victories Sunday to carry the Ateneo Blue Eagles to a 4-0 win over Philippine Christian University of the St. Benedict College coach in Batasang Mills. Xavier scored the Golden Cobra of Greater Manila, 7-10-12, to remain as one of only three unbeaten UAAP teams. Ateneo whipped University of Santo Tomas, 12-10, in the Pasaneño division. San Beda topped Jose Rizal University, 43-11, to open SSC's Group B at 2-0 and in sole possession of the league's 12-th. The other UAAP action saw Lourdes School Mandaluyong one Community of Learners, 45-30, St. Mary's College one Lourdes School 32, 41-40, Manila one (AMB), 50-19, and La Salle Zobel over Don Bosco Technical Institute, 28-22. In the Pasaneño group, 4 wins Lo Salle Greenhills over Notre Dame, 87-24, 13-22 men Don Bosco Mandaluyong, 46-30; San Beda over Ateneo, 50-46, 10. Anthony won over Saint Montessori Center, 50-19, and Manila over Lourdes School, 60, 14-24.

Gambos set to come out of retirement

AUTO Dairy Pallatino, another Filipino race-driver is returning to ring action after announcing his retirement several months ago. Former World Racing Association minimum weight champ Jerry Gambos, who is based in Cebu city, Cebu now is motive his career when he steps out to the ring again in the end of the year in an overseas fight. The 31-year-old Gambos, who retired as FWBA 105-lb champ in 2000 under the guidance of Japanese boxing promoter Jun Sasaki, announced his comeback last January while training in Japan by at the World Boxing Council (WB) in Korea. He was dropped in the second round by Mexican champ Jorge Leon. The Negros born fighter once considered as the country's hardest punching mighty, but promptly bounced back to record 30-4-2 with 20 KOs.

Gabriel L. Caparoso, Contributor

Aquino tops MCC chess vs tiebreak

EDUARD Ismael Jose Aquino is declared National Champion in 19 rounds of the Rizal Luzon games in the first round Sunday to take on Sat-mate August with a score of the MCC Chess Club Inc. Aquino, who is a member of the MCC Chess Club, finished up at Ateneo City, Aquino of Central Luzon State University, who provided the wins and two draws for a total tally of six points, actually tied for first with Ateneo Mayors of Ateneo City. The two shared the 1st USD cash prize. Ateneo, who received a total of 5.5 points, was declared the champion by virtue of the tiebreak points. It was third with 5.5 points was Johnny Balagat, who led Philips Cartagena. Sharing fourth to seventh places were Ateneo, Rizalino Dumlao, Ismael Khan and Fernando Calandro with 5.0 points apiece. Ateneo and Lubanto shared top awards honors while 10-year old Baler Nacario of Concepcion Academy was adjudged best male performer.

Stags screaming ongoing for LP derby

SCREAMING at stage attendant for the annual Las Piñas-Muntinlupa derby is ongoing at the Las Piñas Coliseum starting Saturday and Sunday from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Stags include Jay Ilagan, 14-time MMDA Mayor's Cup and UAAP star and basketball specialist. To be hosted by Mayor Nene Aguilar. The daughter is set on Aug. 28 and 29 and offers a cash prize of P1 million as an entry fee of P10,000. Ateneo Social team watermelon on the championship. For inquiries, call 801-1660 and 801-1661 or 8801660/8804804. Meanwhile, the Cambridge Cookies in the province of Pilar, Bataan is one of the big three cookies and breakers who will fight exclusively at Las Piñas Coliseum, also registered is really. Reversing the group are former Stags members like Sonny Lagos, Patrick Antonio, Gino Del Rosario, Boy Rodeo Dimaraal, Boy de Pinas, Jun Ramos, Ronnie Lazo, Tony Lazaro, Ramon Fernandez, Jun Fernandez as well as Rey, Rudy Meyer, Gerry Flamiano, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Sen. Manuel Villar, Mayor Imelda Aguilar, Rep. Mayor Cohen Aguilar, Pepito Rep. Meyer, and Ateneo Senior and Lito Atienza.

Sta. Ana backfight dangles prizes galore

PRIZES galore await the winners of the upcoming 3-point Daytime Series on Aug. 10 at the Sta. Ana Cockpit during PF Reyes Avenue in Makati City. The event, which dangles a guaranteed prize of P300,000, starts at 2 p.m. with more than 140 fights on tap, said derby hosts Ella Bautista and Gaga Pelino. Reyes has its PF-1000 Bantamweight, Flyweight, Featherweight, Lightweight and Super-weight divisions. Meanwhile, Ateneo Social team watermelon on the championship. For inquiries, call 801-1660 and 801-1661 or 8801660/8804804. Meanwhile, the Cambridge Cookies in the province of Pilar, Bataan is one of the big three cookies and breakers who will fight exclusively at Las Piñas Coliseum, also registered is really. Reversing the group are former Stags members like Sonny Lagos, Patrick Antonio, Gino Del Rosario, Boy Rodeo Dimaraal, Boy de Pinas, Jun Ramos, Ronnie Lazo, Tony Lazaro, Ramon Fernandez, Jun Fernandez as well as Rey, Rudy Meyer, Gerry Flamiano, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Sen. Manuel Villar, Mayor Imelda Aguilar, Rep. Mayor Cohen Aguilar, Pepito Rep. Meyer, and Ateneo Senior and Lito Atienza.

Asia-Pacific Pony baseball starts today; RP faces Japan

SOLON rooms, headed by powerhouse Chinese-Taipei, clog it out for a spot in next month's *World Series* when the 30th Asia-Pacific Zone Pony Baseball Championship unfolds today at the Rizal Memorial ballpark.

Host Philippines goes up against Japan in the opening game at 10 a.m. while Chinese-Taipei, the country's defending champion Olympians, will play on.

A simple opening ceremony at 10 a.m. kicks off the four-day event organized by Pony Baseball Southeast Asian representatives and JCP Sri Baseball president Rodolfo "Boy" Magsaysay.

"We're really excited because it's the first time that we are hosting this big event," said Magsaysay, vice-chair of the organizing committee of the event sponsored by Jollibee, Pureboods and Coca-Cola and supported by the Philippine Sports Commission and Philsports.

Asia-Pacific Zone baseball will also give an award to Ferguson's father, Rodolfo "Tony" Ilarde, establishing youth baseball leagues in the municipality region in the early 1960s for which he earned the title "Father of Youth Baseball."

Today, Ilarde, the league director, will hand out the award to Ferguson in behalf of Jesse Jollibee-Tanjuatco both during the opening ceremony expected to be graced by Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain and Philippine Olympic Committee president Cielito Cuyco.

Olympic golden quest resumes

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Three-time Filipinas boxer who won medals in demonstration/exhibition sports, Antonio Cordoba won the gold in ladies' bowling during the 1988 Seoul Olympics while Stephen Fernandez and Jose Lauzon each got a bronze in taekwondo during the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

This year, 16 more Filipino combatants will

Cebu ICG tennis bet wins twice

CLEVELAND, OHIO — Jan Quevedo came up with two wins before losing in the quarterfinals of the girls' latest tennis Sunday in the International Children's Games here.

Quevedo swiped Antoinette Ulli Blackgard, 6-3, 6-3, then outscored Mia Ilie Bjornsson of Sweden, 6-1, 6-3, before bowing out to a lower superior rival in Nadine Steenbergens of Luxembourg, 6-1, 6-4.

She is in a class of her own. Beating players from the US and Sweden is already a personal achievement for her. She can still play better though in the next round," said Team Cebu City head coach Fely Tabora.

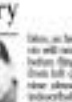
The other members of Team Cebu City were not as lucky, however, as netters Julius Lagunzad, James Karl Cadiente and Chalee Guevara were eliminated in the second round.

They will have a chance for better placing when they compete in the boxers' bracket tournament.

The table tennis team will also resume their campaign tomorrow.

Laudable Larry

SPECTATOR



M.S. Mendoza

Before the game, the thirteen campus heroes literally Larry Brunner campus. He was in banners and posters all over. Students were Larry Brunner pins while attending classes.

At Philippines on Saturday both alumni and students were practically in "Larry" t-shirts. The entire Eagles crew had Larry's No. 34 on their jerseys.

If you ask me, I'd say the reason the heroes were playing in the UAAP. This was the Larry Brunner years. Full of heart, sparsely, cold blooded.

If you ask me, I'd say the Blue Eagles weren't playing for Ateneo. This time, they were playing for Larry Brunner. Different time. Hello! More frequented! Here, in the third from what by LA Tenorio that made Ateneo the winners, 86-83.

They call that Tenorio shot the Sabu Arabia shot. First, Tenorio will fake a forward motion on the dribble. If the guard bites, as has happened many times, Tenorio will raise back to quick fundamental one-before flinging the shot. When the ergle from left quarter court hit no mark with nine almost expiring, the jubilation was indescribable.

After the game, Larry Brunner's mother, Stella, was in congratulations. At numerous occasions after eyeing a river, Larry Brunner's father, Phil, an investigation still on as Nasa, could so far all this time.

When interviewed by sportswriters, Tenorio said he had nothing to be satisfied Larry Brunner who he had had discussed a real offensive for the day. It turns after Nasa Bugia had jumped to forgive 15 all season.

"All I could think of was Larry" said Tenorio, who unleashed the fourth via his patented step back motion, giving him just enough room for a quick release. "I just concentrated arms of Leo Cornelio. "That one was for Larry."

What Tenorio's done went in his a life in Ateneo head, it looked like the Eagles had seen the events as the predominantly Ateneo crowd of the packed, jam-packed Araneta Coliseum. Ateneo fans were ecstatic to choose a respectable season-to-miss-capital.

And where were Larry Brunner?

At home watching the thriller on TV.

I would imagine he stood here also with bowed Brunner's 1988 straight victory to his own inimitable way. Quiet, like a river that runs deep.

BASTERNAL. Congratulations to Gov. Rodolfo "Boyet" R. Vergara for boosting the Philippine Basketball Association's efforts in introducing tot basketball and softball in August 31, 1974. Coming up the slogan Pinoy Pioneer (Ten Barayti Kuntri), Every kicked up with the late newspaper columnist Quincy Simmons in propagating Pinoy Basketball in the regions and soon, this game caught fire in Taiwan, Korea, Australia, China, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, India, Vietnam and even Russia. Late last month, the Japan Pony Baseball Association, through its Chairman Hiroshi Kawamoto, invited Governor Vergara to a banquet in his honor at the famed Tokyo Bay Shangri-La Hotel. Before he left for Tokyo, Tony called me up to break the good news. He even invited me to join him, expenses paid, but I have other assignments. Governor Vergara was in 1983, as St. Louis, Missouri, and Las Vegas, for an international tournament and a Pony convention, respectively. Here's a glass to a dear friend!

Ultron
The Ultimate Release
From Digital Lifestyle
From Philips

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2004
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Ellen Rose D. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Carrie S. Nariowa

DELL
INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS INC.

Meralco ruling to dampen invest climate

By Abigail L. Ho

EXISTING and potential investors in capital-intensive industries in the country may think twice about pouring their money here as a recent court decision junking the unbundled rates of Legazpi-based Manila Electric Co. will increase the uncertainty of doing business in the Philippines.

Consumer and Subic Watch chair Raul Concepcion said the Court of Appeal's decision was nothing short of a "nightmare" not only for the power sector but also for the business community as a whole.

"The decision, for sure, undermined the independence and authority of the Energy Regulatory Commission, the agency mandated by RA 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira), to approve the rates on bundling portions of distribution utilities like Meralco.

He said the appellate court was in no position to "second and second guess" the ERC's May 30, 2003, order unbundling Meralco's rates as it neither had the right nor the technical expertise to do so.

"This is judicial interference, and it will have an effect on the attitude of local and foreign investors at a time when the government is aggressively encouraging investments in capital-intensive industries like power," he said in a briefing yesterday.

The court order likewise called on the ERC to compel Meralco to have the Commission on Audit examine its books.

This, Concepcion said, would set a precedent for the approval of future rate-increase petitions, not only of Meralco but of other power distributors and electric

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T-bill rates fall; 91-day yield at 7.125%

By Michelle V. Rivera

BANKS scrambled for short-term government securities during yesterday's auction, pulling down interest rates by as much as 31.8 basis points and showing less concern about the government's fiscal problems.

The rate for the 91-day treasury bill, used as a benchmark by banks in pricing their loans, declined by 31.8 basis points to 7.125 percent from the 182-day T-bills raised at 8.186 percent, or 20.6 basis points lower than the previous level, while that of the 364-day debt paper slid by 12.9 basis points to 9.117 percent.

"We did not have much problems today. The market was already factoring in positive developments like the government's proposed measures to improve its fiscal position," Deputy Treasurer Edwardo Mendiola said in a briefing after the auction.

Mendiola was referring to the Arroyo administration's revenue-enhancement measures, which are being pushed in Congress for legislation. Included in the measures are tax reforms such as a shift to gross income taxation and the imposition of a franchise tax on telecommunications companies.

(B2 THIS PAGE)

ing a healthy liquidity among banks. Tenders for the 91-day bills stood at P9.61 billion compared with the government's offering of only P6.5 billion. Tenders for the 182- and 364-day paper, meanwhile, reached P5.89 billion and P4.07 billion, respectively. The government seeks to offload P3.5 billion for the 182-day T-bills and P3 billion for the 364-day bills.

"There was a big amount of maturity last Aug. 3, and banks need to roll over their funds," Mendiola said. He explained that about P10 billion worth of government securities matured over the weekend, therefore giving banks enough liquidity to re-invest in treasury bills and bonds.

Mendiola also said the further decline in the rates for the short-term government securities could be an indication the market was already headed for a downward trend in interest rates.

The dollar-index sensitive T-bills yesterday followed the decrease in the rates for government securities that started last month. The lower rates being sought by banks made the Treasury accept huge amounts of bids from the market.

Globe posts 58% jump in first-half profit

By Clarissa S. Batino

GLOBE Telecom Inc. yesterday reported a 58-percent increase in its first half net income to P6.9 billion from P4.4 billion the previous year following aggressive efforts to tap the lower segment of the market to increase its subscriber base.

During the second quarter, Globe said it added 1.4 million subscribers, bringing its total customers to 14.5 million as of end-June.

The joint venture of Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom had increased its base in the first quarter's merging of 1.9 million subscribers, most of whom went to the competitor.

From April to June, Globe registered a net income of P3.8 billion against P3.1 billion from January to March.

Improved profitability allowed the company to declare a cash dividend of P10 a share payable to common shareholders as of Aug. 6. This was the second dividend that Globe would pay out this year as it also declared a similar dividend last March.

"The improvement in our performance this

(B2 THIS PAGE)

Only have rice for you

THE NATIONAL Food Authority, or the NFA, a done with its most importation for the whole year; all the 850,000 metric tons of it.

The NFA says it has already completed its importation during the first half of the year. Actually, the bulk of the shipment came in port or in the election last May.

But then again it's no wonder that the NFA administrator, a young lawyer named Arthur Pay, has also been a student of Christmas in the university.

Later after the elections—and all that rice importation...Christmas all of a sudden turned Pay to the new agriculture secretary of Macapagal administration.

Pay went to replace the current hardworking former agriculture secretary the multimillionaire Luis Lorenzo Jr., who was even well-liked in the business community.

Nobody could say if Pay's promotion has had anything to do with the importation. The new administration did give away a lot of rice during the campaign.

* * *

RPD SO from what I gathered, that news over the weekend, which claimed that the NFA would import rice through "negotiated" basis—big, big lot of importation.

In media, when any government media talks about to going into a negotiated purchase of anything, they only have eyes for some big kil "commissions."

For that was the implication of the news about the NFA that the president (not those of some P1.3 billion worth of rice. You know—how much!

Still, for boys will not that Pay has not been bothered by the exuberance of a big fat "commissioner" for the NFA in the future.

Pay's predecessor, after late, the NFA can skip public bidding, such as when it is faced with an imminent shortage of rice, which can very well lead to a revolution.

Rice is the staple food of 85 million Filipinos, but unfortunately, rice is not in the only food on the table. What's else—I only have rice for you!

* * *

MISTAKE is all-starred two months ago when the NFA found out that the private sector would not fulfill its share in the programmed rice importation for 2004, an election year.

For this year, the NFA planned to import rice of between 850,000 and 950,000 metric tons, which was the estimated shortfall in the domestic harvest for the entire year.

Importation of some 150,000 metric tons would be done by the private sector, and the rest, by the NFA itself.

Supposedly, the term "private sector" refers to the rice farmers, through their various NGOs and cooperatives. Supposedly!

Actually, the share of the "private sector" often turns to big time rice traders. One of them goes by the name of George... well, he has a Chinese-sounding family name.

Another beginner trader, based on word in Mandaluyong, has an Indian-sounding name. Both this guy and George are said to have direct lines to somebody in Malacañang.

BET RACE In the 'BS importation, I heard that the "private sector" had failed to put up its big allocation. The "private sector" had brought in only 56,000 metric tons.

The main reason, according to NFA insiders, was that the "private sector" found the world price of rice too prohibitive.

But time was flying fast, not only because the elections were getting closer, and the new administration could not even afford an expensive issue such as a rice shortage.

There was also the possibility that if the NFA waited a bit longer, it would have to buy even higher prices, some 10 to 20 percent more.

Usually, during the third quarter of every year, which are the last months for rice to the vast markets abroad, the prices go up somewhere up there in heaven.

The NFA then decided that it could no longer wait for the private sector to take its source rice. So, only the, the NFA had to buy the purchase by bargaining the bidding.

* * *

JUST in case it would have to come to that, the NFA sent to the Department of Justice for the authority to waive the bidding.

And that authority was what media players up during the weekend. The NFA wanted to buy rice through a negotiated deal. All at the same time now...HOKUS!

It turned out that the NFA already completed its importation for the year, even using public bidding. In other words, even the DOF authority was a bit too late.

But the only question now is why the DOF had to release the date so long to media, just when a case has been filed against Pay before the Ombudsman a few days ago.

Upon announcement of his appointment as agriculture secretary, Pay became the talk of the town. Pay knows—as young, as smart... and so forth.

For the position, you are, he had to do, lodge a supposed history "irony" of somebody big in Malacañang, plus the brother of somebody bigger in the Senate.

WHO? same as usual (last ARD CBN talkshow host Alvarado "Doug" Pano has not accepted the Cabinet post known as "information czar" under the new administration.

What I heard from people who have been getting in and out of the Palace lately was, actually, it was Secretary Eleuterio Guevara being groomed for the position.

Of course I have to call the good secretary. He told me that he had not gotten any word on the matter.

Pano's information, the low-key but efficient Guevara is actually open here with word in the peace negotiations of the new administration with MILF.

Moreover, he is not part of any of the big media groups in Mindanao which are all fighting for the attention of Gloriastan.

Apparently, Gloriastan wants to get rid of the fractious media set-up at the Palace by putting one person in charge of everything, including government media outlets, being spokesman and overall press-liaison guy.

In fact, Gloriastan's moved the head of one of the media groups to another assignment, getting the title of "presidential adviser for provincial trips."

Can you believe that? I don't...I Gloriastan's late on "adviser for make-up color and eye shadow."

BREAKTIME

Comrade R. Bunal III

DISAPPOINTING COURT DECISION

Investors dump Meralco shares

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FOREIGN investors, unnerved by fears of fresh power outages overseas and frustrated over a court ruling junking a Meralco rate hike petition, have been dumping their holdings in various companies since last Friday.

Oliver Pinto, head of sales at Solaris Equities Inc., said the primary casualties in the market yesterday were Manila Electric Co. and First Philippine Holdings, both controlled by the Lopez family.

Security threats arising from information that the Al-Qaeda group was planning attacks on various international financial institutions in Southeast Asia also dragged the market.

Also, foreign investors got frustrated over what was deemed as "judicial interference in corporate matters," referring to the court decision on the Meralco case.

Analysts were expecting selling pressure on certain counters, especially after the Court of Appeals annulled a June 2003 decision by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) allowing Meralco to raise electricity rates by 17 centavos per kilowatt hour.

The managing director of a foreign brokerage firm, said the court decision had "many ripple effects on the investment strategies of foreign investors in the Philippines."

"The issue goes beyond the power sector; it means any rate increase (in any sector) can be questioned. There is that uncertainty. Clients are saying that no matter how profitable a company is, any court can rule this and that and throw out certain MOA (memorandum of agreement), committee and/or conditions of approval."

Joseph Roxas, president of local brokerage firm Eagle Equities Inc., said "the market seems to be frustrated over judicial interference on corporate matters."

"My worst is that foreign investors are fed up with how things are done here. You can't get something done because the courts interfere," he said.

In its decision, the Court of Appeals said ERC should have placed Meralco's books and accounts under audit before approving the unbundling of its rates.

With these issues and the latest threats in the US bounding local and regional markets, the 30-company composite index fell 30.25 points or 1.3 percent to 1,344.47.

Value turnover was at P7.12 million with a total of 1 billion worth of shares traded.

Meralco, or shares both by foreign and local investors, plunged 13.5 percent or P1.25 to close at P28.25, from P32.50 earlier. Meralco B shares or those sold only to Filipinos, fell P1.38 or 9.4 percent to P14.80 from P16 a share.

First Philippine Holdings Corp. (FPHC), the Lopez conglomerate's investment in power generation and toll road construction dropped 6.1 percent or P1.50 to P23.25 from P24.75.

Benpres Holdings Corp., the flagship company of the Lopez Group with interests in broadcasting and water distribution also dropped two centavos or 3.6 percent to 53 centavos a share.

In the meantime, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) sank P.5 or 1.3 percent to P1,236 from P1,236, dragged by the weakness in the Wall Street-traded stocks.

Foreign brokers sold a total of P484.46 million worth of shares against purchases worth P341.65 million. As a result, foreign brokers were net sellers at P143 million.

Security Bank Q2 profit up 54%

SECURITY Bank Corp. earned P289 million in the second quarter of this year, up 54 percent from the first quarter profit figure of P188 million.

The bank's income jow stands at P476 million, which is ahead of budget and on track to the achievement of the bank's target of a 10 percent to 15 percent increase over the previous year's level.

The income improvement was brought about by the strong performance of its investment banking businesses, and more aggressive collection efforts on its portfolio of non-performing assets.

Alberto U. Villarosa, president and CEO of Security Bank, said the first semester income translates to an annualized return on equity (ROE) of 9.7 percent, a significant increase from last year's 6.6 percent. The bank's net interest income realized a quarterly increase of 14 percent as a result of expanded asset volumes and improved margins. It also had higher income from its portfolio of investment securities.

Intensified collection efforts from its non-performing loans (NPLs) resulted in interest income recoveries, further declining Security Bank's NPL ratio to 7.8 percent from the first quarter's 8.6 percent, which is one of the lowest in the industry.

"Income improvement over the first quarter was achieved despite the increased build-up of provisions by P222 million for the Basel, which was made to ease deterioration in market values across," Villarosa said.

Operating expenses were also kept under control, allowing the bank to post a cost-to-income ratio of 54 percent for the second quarter, lower than the 58 percent in the first quarter.

HGC posts ₱123M in savings

THE HOME Guaranty Corp. (HGC) will generate additional annual savings of some P122.7 million following the completion of a major organizational restructuring.

This was disclosed by HGC president Leonardo Benjamin Hongdan, saying the restructuring had dramatically reduced HGC's manpower cost by its coverage of about 60 percent while improving organizational efficiency.

HGC supports President Macapagal-Arroyo's major middle-market and subsidized housing initiatives by generating funds to guarantee bonds and investments by the government and private financial institutions. It will further support the administration's thrust of close to P4.3 billion from the capital market by boosting its cash resources and further encouraging the expansion of lending to families building new homes, and the growth of home and housing development projects.

Besides significant improvements in HGC's cash position, these also boosted private sector confidence in the home administration's housing initiatives, resulting in new guarantee commitments averaging P14.87 billion annually, up from the P6 billion average in the late 1990s.

Hongdan said Arroyo's directives for the creation of a "more responsive public service organization spurred the design of a flatter and streamlined HGC organization. The new HGC organizational chart eliminated 11 of the 31 positions in the old structure, allowing the corporation to trim down its workforce by 35 percent.

The program, Hongdan pointed out, was carried out on a purely evolutionary basis and was completed through attrition and voluntary separation strategies. The required P109 million in one-time expense for the four implementation is offset by the corresponding savings, he added.

The restructuring also involved the abolition of positions not related to HGC's main mandate, outsourcing certain requirements, and automation of vital processes.

Meralco ruling to dampen investment climate

From page B1

corporations as well.

This could mean that the COA would also have to audit the books of every single private institution that is the country to make sure that the rates they were charging were appropriate and that the rate increases they were asking for were reasonable, he said.

"But the COA has no technical expertise to do that. The ERC is the one with the technical expertise. If they're going to declare audit, why not just abolish the ERC and let the Court of Appeals make the decisions (that the ERC is mandated to make)?" he said.

He added that since Meralco was not a government agency, the COA should have nothing to do with its books.

But if the court order would stand, said Abrantes, banks would really have to go through COA's auditing before the government auditors should complete its audit in no more than 90 days.

Overall, the air of "unpredictability" that the court order would surely touch is would only serve to drive investors away, he said, as nobody would want to do business under an uncertain environment.

"This is the worst. There's no predictability here," he said.

Corrupton said the ERC should take a firm stance on this issue and file a motion for reconsideration in the case.

ERC Chair Rodolfo Albano had earlier said that the regulatory body would file a motion with the appellate court, a position shared by the Office of Energy Affairs.

The ERC has almost finished processing and approving all rate-unbundling petitions that distribution utilities and electric cooperatives have filed over the past months.

DISCLOSURES

MRC Allied Industries Inc. will not hold its shareholders' meeting next July 28 due to lack of quorum.

* * *

[illegible] Paragua Mining Corp. elects Alfredo Ramos, Eduardo Cuerdo, Carlos Dominguez, Modesto Lozano III, Rosario Miguel Ramos, Manuel Hachi and Augusto Suntay.

* * *

AFB Bio-Eng Financial Corp. to sell 11.6 million shares now sold by its wholly-owned subsidiary AFB Bio-Eng Capital Partners Inc., to a foreign investor for over P82.7 million.

* * *

ABENTE (Philippines) Hotel Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 10, 4 p.m. at the Heritage Function Room of Manila Pavilion Hotel. Stockholders of record as of July 26 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PCI Leasing & Finance Inc. bought 1,500 of its shares at P1.23 each.

* * *

[illegible] Realty Holdings Inc. will sell, transfer and convey all its right, title and interest in and to the assets of stock in its wholly owned subsidiary Chester Inc.

* * *

BENEE de Oro Universal Bank announced the resignation of Jose Teo as director and his reappointment as chairman to the board. Teodoro Montecillo was elected independent director of the bank and will assume office after Aug. 5. Andrew Reed was appointed executive vice president as well as EVP and chief operating officer of BDO's wholly owned subsidiary BDO Private Bank Inc. Gilmore Ocampo was appointed senior vice president and head of corporate banking of BDO. *Compiled by Marlon B. Tolosa, PDI Research*

Globe posts . . .

From page B1

began to launch the year gained the first momentum in the second quarter as Sin are well-underway to achieving core key imperatives including an accelerated rollout. In just six months, our expansion already reaches 90 percent of what was achieved in all of 2003," said Globe do Alonso Jr., president of Globe.

Aside from an increased subscriber take-up, the company also credited its improving operating efficiency for the firm's performance in the first semester.

Operating revenue in the first half reached P26.2 billion, or up 15 percent against the previous year while operating costs went up by only 7 percent or P9.23 billion.

Designated cook cashes in on bar chow

By Alexa H. Bacay

GERRY Apolinario started out as the designated cook of the barkada (gang). He would grill potatoes (for chow) for his friends while they drank beer and everybody would be happy.

In gathering recipes, Gerry eventually developed his own concoctions. Soon, he thought of putting up a restaurant. At first, he wanted a place where his barkada could just hang out after work.

"Nothing big, you know ... we never expected that we would expand," Gerry said.

SUCCESS STORY

"[All] we wanted was just our barkada where we could hang out."

In 1997, the first Gerry's Grill opened on Tomas Morato in Quezon City. It was just a bar and "three-burner" type of place where people could hang out after work. But soon, Gerry began to serve food, and the whole barkada were coming in. On Sundays, even the elderly would frequent the place.

Family restaurant

Gerry realized that he needed to switch tack and began to turn his place into a family restaurant and bar.

"It's good ... we actually captured the market that we were not expecting," said Gerry. "Kids' menus sign after-office hours thing long ago (we thought it would only be an after-office hours kind of thing). Now people come in for lunch and dinner, which is better."

Customers frequently have to line up to get a seat at Gerry's Grill, which now counts 13 branches. The biggest branch in terms of building size is the one in Ubix, followed by the Glorietta branch. In terms of land area, the biggest is in Subic.

Doing well

Gerry is thankful that all the branches are doing very well.

This year, Gerry decided to expand his business by franchising—but only to people he has known for a long time.

Gerry's Grill may follow the business pattern of franchising, but the owner has decided to remain cautious, reminding the franchisee only to dream friends.

He said that he hoped it difficult to expand the business because, with every Gerry's Grill that opened, he had to personally oversee the system.

"Run after seven years, maybe only six years (given) certain conditions have improved," he said. "We are now in a better position to share our procedures with others and expand."

Gerry believes in healthy competition. Through the years, several grills have been put up, opening the market to a wide variety of cookout victuals.

But Gerry's Grill is holding its own.

Healthy competition

"I consider all other restaurants competitors," he said. "When a customer goes to a Japanese restaurant instead of at Gerry's Grill, then you become a competitor. But that's good. That's healthy."

Gerry explained that when your restaurant is situated alongside others, you would have a package. Your restaurant would complete a strip, becoming a destination where people can go.

Asked why people keep coming back to his place, Gerry modestly replied: "Good food, of course ... reasonable yung price, and of course the place."

The businessman has made sure that the same casual ambiance people have warmed up to is maintained in all the branches.

He also makes sure that the food is always fresh.

Where this series required he baked subang (mussels), the delicacy was not available. Gerry explained that they were worried about the food they serve and they would even coordinate with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources daily over which types of food to avoid.

Quality control

That day, he said, there was a threat of Red Tide so baked mussels was taken out of the menu for the time being.

Gerry counts the biggest challenge for the young businessman as quality control.

"Say yung problema yung wag, expand (that's the problem when a business expands)," Gerry explained. "The quality is compromised. In franchising, we control that by managing the outlet."

After seven years, customers have kept coming back to Gerry's, putting the grill on the country's culinary map.

Gerry now hopes to have other restaurateurs dreams of.

"We're trying to be a household name here and I think we're getting there."

Gerry's Grill on Aug. 1 will open a new branch at the 2nd floor Ayala Entertainment, Ayala Cebu. On Aug. 10, another branch will open in the Blue Place along Edsa Extension near Macapagal Avenue.

THINGS are looking up as Gerry's Grill, now serving more than just cookout victuals.

THE SUBIC branch is the biggest in terms of land area.

DESIGNATED cook turned businessman, Gerry Apolinario

RP acquires concessions in WTO talks

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE PHILIPPINES and other developing countries have obtained favorable concessions from developed nations in the recently concluded meeting of the World Trade Organization.

The Department of Agriculture said that in the conclusion of the July talks, the WTO has adopted the "special products" concept which would allow a developing country to regulate the flow of imported products and market access.

The WTO General Council announced that "special differential" measures for developing countries will be an integral part of all elements of the negotiations, including the tariff reduction formula, the number and treatment of sensitive products, expansion of tariff rate quotas and implementation period," according to Reginaldo Serrano, DA undersecretary and a member of the trade delegation.

The council noted that special care must be taken to protect the rural development, food security and livelihood needs of the developing country, Serrano said.

Agricultural products that would fall under the SP category would not have to be subjected to deeper tariff cuts and year. This would mean relief for local farmers producing rice, corn, sugar, livestock and poultry, whose duties range from 1.00 to 50 percent. The concession would also allow the government to keep duties on these products' substitutes, such as barley, wheat and rye.

Serrano said it was necessary for developing countries to stand at their own pace the duties on sensitive agricultural products become one of their imperatives to food and livelihood security and rural development.

Aside from maintaining tariffs, the Philippines would also push for the implementation of minimal special safeguard mechanisms that would allow developing countries to charge higher duties on products threatened by cheap imports, Lorenzo said.

Tips on how to be a better investor (Part 2)

MR. BEARBULL

Alvin Ayatheyn

1) Do not average down

Under normal circumstances, I am against the death penalty, but not for those who break this commandment. They should be barbecued slowly over a fire while concentrated hydrochloric acid is dropped upon them. All the people I know who went bankrupt averaged down.

In 1996, the market climbed steadily, accelerating in the final months. A client called me with P4 million and, as the market was so strong, he opened a margin account for another P4 million. After a year of heavy trading, his portfolio was worth P12 million in cash. At that point, I told him that I was returning to London for a week to see my mother because it was her 80th birthday, and not to buy anything while I was away.

Unfortunately, he went to a company meeting where a director told him (and 149 other people) to buy the shares at P5.40 as there was going to be a secondary offering between P5.6 and P.12 the following month. He invested all his capital in the purchase of 4 million shares. When I returned, he told me what he had done and I lost my temper. "I can't sell," he said "because the shares are now only P3...and I would lose P1.6 million plus expenses." "But I made for you P2.8 million," I said. "Why can't you take a loss?" Well, he refused and the shares kept on falling, P4...P3, P2, P1, 50 centavos. Eventually, we parted company and as far as I know, he never sold them. The shares fell to 2 centavos and have now been de-listed...after filing for bankruptcy.

Another client bought 20 million shares at 5½ centavos on the advice of his neighbor who was a director of the company. I was scarcely unhappy because they had risen from their par value of 1 centavo. She only would be out with an 18 centavos. As I suggested, but also he averaged down at 40 centavos, 36 cents, 20 cents and 10 cents. He had to sell his house and his business to raise the money. Finally the shares stabilized at 3 centavos, the price they are still at.

If you follow the second commandment, such disasters cannot happen to you, so you will never be faced with the decision of whether to average down.

4) Do not overtrade

If you are trading everyday, the only person making money is your broker. The expense is, indeed is too high. You have to pay two commissions, usually 0.5 percent plus VAT, and a 0.1 percent sales tax to withdraw, close to the difference between the bid and offer price, usually about 2 percent. So you have to make 4 percent just to break even. This is fine, as long as your BUY just as the stock is turning up, but if you deal constantly the expense will ultimately cripple you.

That small percentage is enough to make all the incredibly-costly casinos in Las Vegas unprofitable. They can afford to give free rooms, free food and drinks, and free rooms to high rollers because they know that a percentage advantage of 1.6 percent is enough to guarantee the house a nice profit over the long run. Trade only when the risk/reward indicators tell you to. Pay the reminder of the time...try nothing. the latest is 4 minus.

3) Do not trade on tips

In England, we say, "Where there's a tip, there's a rip."

I am sure you all remember ISH, now Fairmont. The shares were run up deliberately by a syndication that by tips and rooms trading, created enormous volume and sent the shares from 40 centavos (under a different name) to P1.00. Almost everyone got sucked in, mainly at the higher levels, and those speculators who did not use stop losses saw their shares go all the way down to 40 centavos and below. One old lady wrote to me that her broker had recommended it at P.04. Would she ever see her money back? I replied, somewhat unkindly, "Only if you believe in miracles." These days, few people believe rips and politicians in opposition, as can be seen from the low net turnovers.

4) Do not chase prices

When I recently recommended PCIB for long-term, subscribers bought around P1.80 and crackers, a week later, at P2.04. But those who did not read the article until the evening piled in next day paying up to P2.35. This was sheer lunacy and I told subscribers to SELL and wait for a correction. The BSE has now stated that SMART does not have to make a tender offer after all, so they bought the shares at P1.89 ...enormous fun it would have been to appalling waste of time and money. I repeat that there is nothing to go for in the short-term, but if you can take a 1-year view, the shares should regain at least P3.

When shares take off, they usually fall back, look at SMC, up and down like a yo-yo. DPM jumped from .0032 to .0068 and then dropped back to .0032. At that point, I recommended them in my newsletter as a SPECULATIVE buy and in four days, they were up 30 percent. At least, there is some coherence because they are part of a group drilling for oil. Yes, I do not hold any shares.

7) Be wary of inactive stocks

The documentary stamp, which made trading in shares such hidden their par value prohibitive, has been removed. As a result, total log has increased twofold and, numerically third-timers comfortably exceed leaders. But in value, out of 122 stocks that traded last Friday, only 18 traded P10 million and accounted for over 90 percent of turnover.

I have a computer program that sifts my orders a stock increases in price by 5 percent, and its volume is 50 percent above its 50-day moving average. The alerts me to inactive stocks that suddenly become more active. Often, the spread between bid and offer is too great or the number of shares available is too small to be of any interest. But occasionally, it throws up some interesting. RMM was a case in point and it has doubled over the past 2 weeks on large volume.

8) Buy low priced stocks

By this, I don't mean stocks quoted at a fraction of a centavo. I mean decent stocks trending around...or above, their par value of P1. Obviously it is easier to double your money on a low-priced stock than on a high-priced both or investment company. Even TEL, my most successful recommendation (up over P1000), is not likely to double from this level. I expect it to reach P1,000 more year, but in percentage terms, this is only 15 percent. There are too many stocks worth looking at, but there are one or two.

The last commandment is **9) LEARN TECHNICAL ANALYSIS** and I will tell you where to get information. (To be concluded)

* * *

4 Filipino traded for China was told that he needed a visa.

"That's ridiculous," he said. "I have been there four times and they have always accepted my American passport as valid."

The Beatles have written a song about MIDDAGE. It is called, "Let it Be."

BUSINESS

BIR to file tax evasion cases vs 24 retailers

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue is set to file tax evasion cases totaling about P500 million against 24 medium-sized retail traders for allegedly underdeclaring their value-added tax (VAT) and income tax liabilities.

BIR Deputy Commissioner for prosecution Lizette Evangelista told reporters the criminal agency would file the cases with the respective fiscal's offices within the week, and expected the cases to be brought to the Court of Tax Appeals immediately after initial investigations have been made by the fiscals.

"The BIR has decided to sue after these companies after they failed to respond to the letters of notices that we sent them. Tax evasion is a felony and a serious crime, and so we want to send the strong message that we will not tolerate it," Evangelista told reporters after yesterday's ceremonial celebration of the BIR.

Evangelista said Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. has already approved the filing of cases against 15 companies over the weekend, and was expected to sign the filing of the remaining 11 to submit them to the fiscal's office before the end of the week.

Evangelista said the BIR was able to detect the tax delinquency of the 24 companies after using third-party information provided by the firms' clients. The use of third party information, which includes purchases made by client-firms, is a method recently undertaken by the BIR to detect tax cheats. The method of detecting tax delinquency through third-party sources is called Reconciliation of Listings for Enforcement (Relief).

Evangelista said that under Relief, the BIR gathered the list of purchases by companies belonging to the large taxpayers batches, including Oil Group of companies, Retail Consumer sectors and Globe Telecommunications. The lists were compared with the sales declarations made by the selling companies, including the 24 firms that still be charged with tax evasion.

The BIR official said the revenue agency found out that the 24 firms had underdeclared their tax liabilities by 70 to 80 percent, resulting in about P500 million in lost revenues for the government.

Evangelista said the BIR would disclose the identity of the 24 firms after all the cases have been filed in the week.

The BIR official said the filing of the cases against the retail trading companies would be a precedent in the revenue agency's drive against tax delinquents.

He said the BIR's prosecution team was targeting to work on at least one tax evasion case for each of its 117 revenue districts. In an related step, setting the target of at least one strong tax evasion case for every district would be enough to send a strong signal against tax evaders.

SMUGGLING CHARGES

Ecozone firm loses incentives

By Rocco M. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT has revoked the registration for investment incentives of a garment firm due to, ironically, its smuggling into the country some 8,200 boxes of used clothes.

The newest casualty in the strike of a year-long feud between the Federation of Philippine Industries, which had cried smuggled used clothing that have found their way to "ukay-ukay" shops all over the country has resulted in the continuing decline in the visibility of the local garments industry.

According to the Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority canceled the registration of Pearl City Garments Inc. as an overseas export enterprise in the Mactan Export Processing Zone I.

Documents showed that the company formerly known as Pearl City Manufacturing Corp., a Taiwanese-owned and -operated in the recording and processing of used clothing into wool fibers, cotton fiber, polyester fiber, stable clothing and industrial wiping rags.

The company was first registered with PEZA in January 1992. This entitled Pearl City to enjoy no income tax holiday tax and duty relief on the importation of capital equipment, and exemption from wharfage dues and export taxes as well as other fiscal and non-fiscal perks.

The DTI acknowledged the PEZA's initial investment in March 2004 showed that Pearl City had never entered importation of 8.28 million kilograms or 200 containers of used clothing materials from January 2003 up to that time.

Last May, PEZA made its special audit of Pearl City with a representative of the National Anti-Smuggling Task Force observing the procedures.

The investigation showed that Pearl City failed to account for a shortage of 7.79 million kilos of imported used clothing. The company also failed to present documents to show what it did to scrap and destroy its materials.

"The DTI said that in 1999, Pearl City had been fined heavily when—with the use of private vehicle—it brought into the Mactan economic zone 102 bales or about 3.4 tons of used clothing sold to Ukay Ukay.

The PEZA Board warned the company that "a similar violation in the future shall be dealt with most severely and shall constitute a sufficient ground for the summary cancellation of its registration with PEZA."

BEST ANNUAL REPORTS AWARDS

The Management Association of the Philippines (MAP), in cooperation with PLDT, recently held the awards night for the best annual reports. The awards aim to encourage the publication of accurate, informative, timely and well-presented annual reports for the benefit of all stakeholders. At the awards night (from left): 2004 MAP president and SGV chair Cielo L. Bukangan, PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan, DBP chair Simeon Paramo, MAP project chair Conrad Edward L. Fortes and former presidential spokesperson Michael Tibolo, who hosted the awards.

WIN REWARDS FOR YOUR PICTURE-PERFECT REVO!

Send your old or new, unusual, extraordinary and fun pictures of your Toyota Revo or Tamaraw FX and get a chance to win as much as P400,000!

The contest is open to all amateur and professional photographers. Selected entries will be included in an exhibit.

No purchase required.

REVO

REFLECTIONS

Mechanics:
- Participants will be asked to submit their photographs of the Revo (to depicted in the theme 'REVO: REFLECTIONS') showing an Filipino heritage and lifestyle.
- There may be past photographs or newly taken ones.
- The photographs may include any variant and features of the Revo, doing their best (if chosen).
- All entries may be submitted in Black and White or Full Color.
- Film entries should be printed on photo paper, sized to 8"x10" with their corresponding negative files.
- Digital entries should be printed on photo paper, sized to 8"x10" with their corresponding digital file copy on CD, zip or ZIP Disket disc.
- Deadline of entries is on 31 August 2004 till 5:00:00 midnight.

PRIZES
One (1) winner on each:

Grand Prize	+	Php 400,000
Second Prize	+	Php 75,000
Third Prize	+	Php 50,000
5 Consolation Prizes	+	Php 10,000 each

Contest period is until August 31, 2004. Entries must be sent to our stated. Open only to entry forms.

TOYOTA

WHERE workout is fun and relaxing /C3

LIFESTYLE

Lito Chua-Bassé-Formoso

Healthful convergence of two traditions

By Linda B. Bubba

TRADITION and practice are not the only reasons Oriental medicine has endured for centuries. For men of vision or brain, Western ones appear to have established clear-cut scientific bases for its continued use and practice as conventional medicine.

Dr. Zhu An Shi, senior director, clinical and pharmacological unit, Pharmaton, was in town recently to launch its locally formulated ReishiMax (3.6 g), a formulation extracted from red mushrooms designed to give a long-term boost to the immune system. The product aims to help maintain the health of the body's immune system and to stimulate the production of defensive immune cells. Pharmaton is a division of the Lugano-based Nu Skin Enterprises Company, a network marketing enterprise that distributes oral nutritional care, nutricosmetic and other natural products.

Dr. Zhu, in introducing ReishiMax (3.6 g), discussed primarily its potential for preventing the liver. He said it also helped in the management of diabetes "in increasing a person's insulin sensitivity to effect a reduction of the fasting blood glucose. Diabetes, a problem related to the body's inability to process sugar thoroughly and completely is characterized by a high blood glucose even if a person has "fasted" or not had a meal for several hours.

Reishi or red mushrooms, a woody variety found primarily in the wild, had reportedly been used by China for centuries, valued for its perceived "powers" to enhance longevity and increase vigor and vitality. Despite a long tradition of use, these powers had not been harnessed to the full because of limited supply and the way the mushrooms was utilized in the past. Basically, Dr. Zhu said, fresh reishi was used and its components "harnessed" by using it as an ingredient in cooking or by putting it in teabags. "The question is how well the useful properties were extracted and made available to the body" the scientist said. Another big question for the company he added, was how to ensure quality of production.

Value is established

Dr. Zhu said, in China, scientific books extolled the traditional usefulness and the properties of various uses, including herbs. So, in the case of reishi, there was enough literature to establish its value. It was only a matter of utilizing the plant's full potential and ensuring quality and consistency of formulation. Pharmaton, he said, set up its own reishi production to ensure the sustainability and quality of supply. Mushrooms were grown in a pollution-free environment without the use of pesticides.

The company also adopted the "cracking technology" in preparing the reishi formulation. Dr. Zhu said the technology was very important because it freed the mushroom's healthful active components and made them more readily available for use by the body. At the same time, the company applied Western quality standards and its own traditional production methods.

Initially, there was some resistance to reishi by Pharmaton, which has a production unit in China, that "tampered" with tradition but eventually Dr. Zhu said, the wisdom of the new approach was recognized.

Although the scientist talked primarily about how reishi boosted the immune system and helped in diabetes management, he mentioned studies in the United States that suggested the mushrooms, as a dietary supplement, had other potential uses. A study undertaken by a team headed by Veronica Stoven of the Cancer Research Laboratory of the Methodist Research Institute, which was published in the Winter 2004 issue of the "Journal of Cancer Integrative Medicine" showed that Ganoderma lucidum, reishi's scientific name, "may contribute to reducing invasion and metastasis [spread] of breast cancers by inhibiting cancer cell adhesion, cell migration, cell invasion and growth of cancer cells."

Differing potency

Findings of another study by a research team headed by Daniel Sliva, PhD, of the Department of Medicine, School of Medicine, Indiana University Indianapolis) had parallel findings. But the study, published in a 2003 issue of "The Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine," stressed the need to test the potency of every reishi formulation available in the market because methods of extraction and/or certain chemical additives could affect the efficacy of a supplement. It suggested that the differences in potency could be "the result of variation in the concentration of the active ingredients."

Apparently, the scientific studies had helped strengthen ReishiMax (3.6 g)'s claims that, according to Dr. Zhu, it was now the first of several best-selling red mushroom formulation in countries where it was available. The product was introduced in the market in 2002.

ReishiMax (3.6 g) comes in bottles of 60 capsules and retails for P3,200. For health maintenance, one or two capsules of the dietary supplement should be taken with liquid at morning and evening meals. Those wanting to give a lot of boost to their immune system should take two capsules twice daily.

POUNDING rice is no much fun. Former Finance Secretary Mina Gabor and S. French Ambassador Benoit Veyres take their turn.

Rice-ing to the occasion

ASIA Rice Foundation chair Dr. Emil Javier; Manny Ecija Gen. Tomas Javier III, former Tourism Secretary Mina Gabor; French Ambassador Benoit Veyres; Arthur Yap, undersecretary of Agriculture and NFA administrator; executive director of the Philippine Rice Research Institute Dr. Leocadio Sebastian; and secretary of the Philippine National Committee for the ITR Dr. Roger Cayco (partly visible).

RICE with visitors Isia carved at the opening of "Rice Feeds the World" exhibit at Starbucks

MR spokesperson Duncan Maclennan, with popular Dr. William Padolina.

HANDSOME, young French ambassador attaché, Emmanuel Gorin, explains to Tourism Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan the rice exhibit.

Did you know that this is the International Year of Rice? Well, palangpas, neither did I till I received an invite to the recent opening ceremonies of the Rice Feeds the World Exhibit at Ayala Malls' Glorietta and Greenbelt shopping centers that featured Isia.

Since it was not a run-of-the-mill invitation, and being a rice lover (only unpolished red, please), I went and found out this project was developed in France, no less. The exciting, interactive exhibition has something for everybody—kids and adults alike.

It has already toured several other Asian nations, including Thailand and Myanmar, and will be in the Philippines for a month before going to Vietnam," said former Tourism Secretary, to interpret, Mina Gabor.

The exhibit features a wide range of colorful and interesting materials. A special section instructs the public to what a rice plant is all about.

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Agricultural Research Center for International Development created the exhibit as part of the ministry's annual, super-exciting French Spring cultural activities. It was brought to the Philippines through the French Embassy to mark the International Year of Rice. The Philippine National Rice Research Institute is the government arm for the yearlong event.

With the slogan "Rice is Life," the international year was declared by the United Nations to increase global awareness of the grain that feeds almost half the world daily, would you believe?

In officially joining the International Year of Rice observances, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, through Proclamation 824, also declared "every November to be National Rice Awareness Month in the Philippines."

Hey, you guys, don't take rice for granted. Love every grain of it, palangpas.

Visit www.philrice.gov.ph/IYR/Hol and www.irc.org for more info, year-related content and activities in the Philippines and internationally.

Theatrical event

Pulo of the Isen took a deep breath and braved the horrendous weekend traffic to be among the first to see the latest extravaganza of the maverick, talented interior designer, Cesar Carolo. It's—for very good reason to be the rave exclusive, you can, this Peninsula de Punta Pargo in Tanagbo, Batangas. Reporter, good-looking, sympathetic, Ignacio Kimbokian, Punta Pargo's general manager, hosted the early cocktails at the owner's main clubhouse.

Together with Cesar's talentante wife, attractive Tammy, and daughter Mhiray, Ignacio warmly welcomed the well-heeled invitees from out-of-town and led them to the open, cool veranda from where the fabulous home, with—like Isen, palangpas—a lifetime resident of St. Michael on its demand and was clearly visible.

Theatrically lighted for the event by Gerry Fernandez of "Miss Saigon" fame, the house looked like an enchanted Aluracan castle. Perched on top of one of Punta's highest

EMMA Antonarsan-Jakia and Doris Lita Palileo.

BUSINESSMAN Jaime Laguda with the hostess, Sienna Carolina

POPULAR couple Lilibeth and Pepe Crespo

A BIG HUG for Ginny Isaac from Punta Pargo's good-looking DM, Ignacio Kimbokian

MICHEL and Margarita Lhuillier

THE HOSTS of the Manassan affair, Cesar and Tammy Carolina, with daughter Mhiray, standing in the centre, which is a replica of their Punta home.

THE MEGASTAR manager of the popular, beautifully renovated Eat Wise Hotel, impatient Alfredo Roca

HAVING a great time partying, Berg Tiburcio and Ramon Rivera

GE Cawayan and Fr. Tito Caluag, S.J.

New Age mother can't decide on religion for her kids

DISCIPLE a letter from Norma (not her real name), a 41-year-old mother of four children who could not decide in what religion to raise her kids, since she had embraced "more enlightened New Age concepts."

Norma was raised by a very strict Catholic father who because "is beyond strict but was weak before bond with temptation." She said her father "had his moral weaknesses through a facade of [holiness] and by being a religious freak." The hypocrisy made her lose her trust and respect for her father in her adolescent years and she let faith in the Catholic Church.

"It was only after he died," she said, "that I forgave him and accepted who he really was. I realized he touched the lives of many people and healed them in the process."

She has read books on reincarnation and the "Conversations with God" books of Neale Donald Walsh and found them very enlightening. She believed what "God" was saying in these books.

Raised as Catholics

Her dilemma now is this: "Now that I have embraced this kind of 'enlightened religion,' what do I teach my children? I have four kids, aged 15, 13, 6 and 5. I am raising them as Catholics like my parents. Three of my siblings (we are 11) joined the Born-Again Christians several years ago. Should it be terrible of me to teach them Gods' my religion? Or should I just let them believe in a punishing God? And about Jesus Christ who saved us?

"My kids are happy being Catholics and they follow tradition. But the older ones are already asking questions which I could not easily answer. I am utterly confused! I admit I'm just at the vulnerable stage of being conscious of my 'higher awareness' or 'higher being' and might be being misled by all these so-called 'New Age religion.' I am afraid to let them know my beliefs because of what they might think.

"I am surrounded by people who are deeply Catholic. Even to my office, 95 percent are members of Opus, a Catholic organization, and they talk a lot about it and

INNER AWAKENING

Jaime T. Licauco

outwardly practice their faith. They sometimes get very judgmental when I share openly up about my own belief. It's frustrating and confusing.

"Somehow can you say about my predicament? Can you help me? I know you've enlightened a lot of people who have called you master. Please help me!"

Greater master

Thank you, Norma, for your kind words and for your confidence in this writer to be the source, for one reader some important clarifications. I am not a master and do not wish to be called one. I firmly believe the real master is within each of us. There is no greater master than yourself.

This so-called New Age is not a religion but merely a new way of looking at life and the universe, a new point of view. One can be a member of any religion and still embrace New Age ideas. See my new book "On Christianity, New Age and Reincarnation" for a clear explanation of what New Age is really about.

Personally I don't want to talk about religion because I believe it is an individual and personal thing. I also believe all religions are good and there's no point in converting a person to another religion. It is just like jumping from one box to another although each point or emotion of one box believes his box is better than the others and each is willing to fight to the death to prove it.

To me it does not matter much which religion you adopt or to raise your children in. If you are a Catholic, be a good Catholic; if a Muslim or Hindus be a good Muslim or Muslim.

No true or false religion

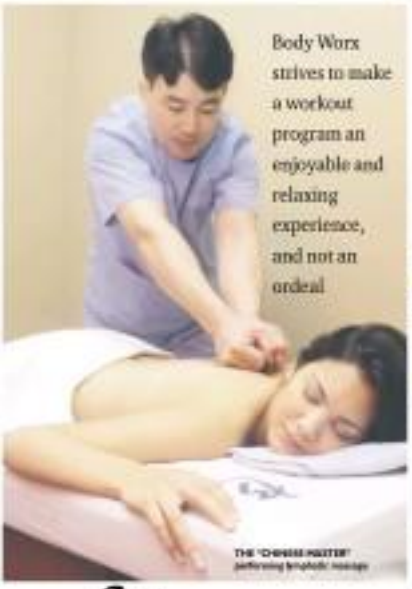
I do not believe one religion is true and others false. Who are we to judge this? When the psychic Edgar Cayce was asked in a reader-which version of the Bible was best, his reply was: "The one that you live." I think that's an excellent answer.

Members of any religion do not all live up passion what their religion teaches. We are all guilty of this. What we desperately need in this country is greater tolerance for religious beliefs that may be different from our own.

If your children are happy with their Catholic faith, let them be. There is no point in disturbing their belief. But when they start questioning their religion, that's the time to explain how you view things, without forcing them to embrace your point of view.

With this we confine them! But necessarily. It depends on how you handle their questions. You will be surprised how smart this younger generation is. They are truly Aquarian age children.

As for your silkworms and friends, there are three subjects you should never discuss: religion, politics and sex!


THE "CHINESE MASTER" performing lymphatic massage

Body Worx strives to make a workout program an enjoyable and relaxing experience, and not an ordeal

INDOOR cycling area at Body Worx

myBODY testing area (see left) with the aid of gym equipment

COMPUTERIZED individual exams

Get fit without throwing a fit

Text by Bella V. Rondez
Photos by Jim Quino-Pascual

WHAT do sexy stars Jeanine Pirro, Maria Julia and Christine Vasquez have in common aside from being sexy? They go to Body Worx Spa and Fitness Club to keep fit and stay healthy.

Body Worx on Time Avenue, QC, owned and managed by a corporation, has been operating for almost five years now. It sits on a 2,000-sq-m property with ample parking facilities. Space, in fact, is one of the things the club offers its clients, enhancing the sense of tranquillity and relaxation people find once inside.

Facilities include the gym where classes, including indoor cycling, are held, and a spa with sauna and steam rooms, separate shower and locker areas for men and women.

"The concept is more like a health club. You can work out in the spacious gym. Then relax at the spa," says Grace Varela, operations manager of Body Worx.

Safe and user-friendly

The gym is really conscious-oriented. It has made every effort to ensure that its equipment are safe and user-friendly. Machines of well-known brands are used—from strength training to cardiovascular equipment that even beginners would find easy to use.

Body Worx holds classes that feature relaxation, high endurance and calorie-burning activities. Classes include aerobic boxing, cardio dance, Pilates, belly dancing and, the latest hour fitness craze, the Capoeira, a combination of martial arts and dancing.

The club has organized fun sessions to include massages—Shiatsu and Swedish reflexology; hands using only top of the line products from Swedish brand; and an array of specialized body treatments, which include exfoliating scrub, the highly recommended milk and honey dip, and a herbal dip to help people with insomnia. Clients claim, with the herbal dip, they do not need to take sleeping pills to get a good night's sleep.

The club is proud of its imported "Chinese masseur" who performs lymphatic massage or the so-called Chinese massage using pressure to alleviate pain, and heat reflex to rejuvenate and relax not only the hair but the entire body as well. The master can detect ailments and determine if body parts are functioning well.

Personalized approach

The club targets the 4 and 8 groups... mostly professionals like businessmen, doctors, lawyers, accountants.

Body Worx has almost 30-35 staff members, including gym instructors who are certified physical therapists trained not only in injury prevention but also in proper nutrition. "Our instructors who actually do physical training are making sure there is zero injury," says Varela.

Upon enrollment, clients will be asked to go through a fitness test. The body mass index (BMI), body fat percentage and lean muscle percentage will be calculated with the use of the Tanita body fat analyzer. Results will also be recorded.

Clients may set clear goals, address personal concerns and discuss health objectives with their physical instructor before adopting a workout program. Those who are above or have breast problems are advised to have their doctor check them up before starting any fitness programs.

The club has in-house nutritionists who design special diets for clients.

Lifestyle adjustment

The fitness programs, according to Varela, are not just designed for physical well-being but also for lifestyle improvement as well. "Most executives who work out in the gym are usually in a hurry, but they want to work all the time's worth, so we design a program for each busy people—like a 20-minute program... because we want to give them value. They need a complete workout that will help them manage stress in a manner that is physically acceptable," she adds.

THE KT 360 machine is designed for sports-training activities. It is recommended for people who play badminton and golf.

Much-believed that their edge over other fitness centers is service. "We focus on client satisfaction above all else."

Safety is another thing the club guarantees parents. "They can leave their things anywhere while working out and feel at ease. It's like their second home," she adds.

The club, which now has 500 members, plans to expand in order to a more diverse market, according to Varela, another branch may open in Mandaluyong or Makati.

To complement the club's wellness package, the mini cafe at the lobby offers fare-for-the-inside—sandwiches and refreshments—especially made for diet-conscious individuals.

Body Worx offers a comprehensive membership package that covers classes and free use of the facilities. There's a 15% joining fee and monthly fees that depend on the facilities they want to avail of. P1,500, P1,900 or the P2,300. Walk-ins are allowed for a fee.

Body Worx has an ongoing promo, the 1500-massage, available on Wednesdays on a first-come, first-served basis.

The gym is open 8 a.m.–10 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m.–8 p.m. on Sundays, while the spa is open 2 p.m.–12 mn on weekdays and 2–8 p.m. on Sundays. Call 4102666, 3725000, 3766819 or fax 3733000.

E-mail the author at bbrondez@inquirer.com.ph

RELAX and rejuvenate with the famous milk and honey dip

Creation requires intention

MIND TUNING—Just you create in life is connected to the Universe. Your inner part of you that is inextricable. That is the place, they say, where all dreams are born.

In the past, creation was largely dependent on the sanctum of one's will and the assistance of one's ego. Today, Trust is holistic point of view, creation is not just the ardent intention, one that lies on the higher levels of consciousness...what urges call us, stars randoming.

Getting connected

Why are there so many people who feel disconnected, cut off from life, not in tune with life's heartbeat? If you are feeling down, depressed and desperate, it's time to reconnect with the Rules of the Universe.

Dr. Wayne W. Dyer, in his best-seller "The Power of Intention," states that you can make the world you dream of be yourself. All you need is to tap the power of intention. The Source creator. For the disconnected Ego.

As defined, ego involves as primary statements:

- I somehow I have. My possessions define me.
- I am what I do. My achievements define me.
- I am what others think of me. My reputation defines me.
- I am a separate from everyone. My body defines me as alone.

- I am separate from all that is missing in my life. My life space is disconnected from my desires.
- I am separate from God. My life depends on God's assessment of my worthiness.

To get connected, and to control mind suppress the ego, look at these beliefs and do some reassessments. Weaken the ego to strengthen the intention.

Seven faces

Tremendous energy is in store for anyone who can adapt and put into action the seven faces of intention.

- Be creative. There must be something you want to do with your life. Now is the time to set out it. Do not fear. Just follow your inner voice.
- Be kind. All will multiply for you if you practice kindness. Be kind to others, to all of life, to yourself.
- Be love. What a powerful force! It is said that being in states of love works miracles. Love has transformative powers. If you do not allow its energies to flow from and into your heart, then you will not grow, but would instead be diminished.

INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

- Be bounty. Look at all things with a pair of eyes focused on bounty. Adopt the awareness of bounty rather than opulence. Believe that you are beautiful—a magnificent of the power that conceived you.
- Be non-expansive. Life is alive. Be in a state of readiness to embrace all the goodness in store for you.
- Be abundant. There are no limits, no scarcity, no doubts. Expansion is yours for the taking. Don't hold yourself back.
- Be receptive. Stay in harmony with the goodness of life. Be open to creation.

Matching game

Match the inside with the outside. Your inner desires must be in synch with your needs. Example: If you don't have a sunny face (even if you want the sunshine) if you keep saying that it will not all day.

Under the mind would with your design. In short, know in your head that it is done—your dream is your deed.

Drive away your negative thoughts. Match your positive thoughts with positive gifts of manifestation.

Example:

No matter I don't have any money.

Match: I entrust unlimited resources now.

No match: My girlfriend/boyfriend/lover/wife/husband is a grouch and a pyman.

Match: I bless me for good while of my loving partner.

No match: I am weak and oddly.

Match: I love myself enough to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

No match: I hate my house. It's haunted and creepy.

Match: I value my most home which will be peaceful and comfortable.

Practicing intention

As breakfast, think this thought: I love my body and I will feed it only nourishing food. Eat your fruits, cereals (no excess sugar), smoothies with a pleasant state of mind.

At the office, hold your temper if you feel like lashing out at anyone. Take a deep breath, exhale slowly and repeat to yourself: "In control situation than out of control."

At home, instead of being a couch potato, get off the sofa, choose energy-giving things and chocolate bars. Replace "Good food, not junk food."

At happy hour, happiness is not more than one glass of alcohol. Affirm, "Moderation not abstinence."

LOVE & LIGHT!

Watch "Life" by Cory Quirino, 11:30 p.m., Wednesdays, thanks 23.

Letter to "Mo Beauty" do Ms. Quirino," 6-7 p.m., Sundays, Radyo Pueblo 1026/1630.

Resistance makes you stronger

Rizel Vera

THE HARDEST exercise way to do strength training is by lifting weights. But jumping into it isn't the only way to become stronger. Any exercise done against resistance can be effective depending on goals.

Resistance is in the form of free weights, machines, rubber bands, your own body weight, manual resistance, and the water around you when doing aqua exercises. Know the advantages and disadvantages of each type so you can choose the most appropriate.

Free weights

Aside from dumbbells and barbells, free weights can also be weighted vests or medicine balls, ankle weights or any external weight carried with your hands or strapped to your body or limbs.

Free weights are the most popular form of resistance because they are easy to use and are relatively cheap. You can work all body muscles with simple exercises that don't require complicated positions.

Have you need to "balance" the weights, your trainer will work around in the stronger side (this is you're true for dumbbells that are handheld). This prevents muscular imbalances.

However, free weights can be unsafe without proper supervision as injuries from the most common mistake is to lift weights with too jerky movements. If you lift heavy weights, you need a spotter for certain exercises. Otherwise, if your experience must be taken, the weights could crush dangerously.

Some strength training exercises are not possible with free weights. They are best done with machines or rubber bands. Examples are leg pull downs and seated rows.

Machines

The resistance of machines can come if you weight stacks, pressure and air or springs (like Pilates equipment). Machines have an automatic safety feature. The weights won't fall on you if you get tired. That's why hotel and resort gyms without instructors prefer machines. Owners feel comfortable their users don't final a guest pinned by a barbell.

Machines revolve heavily-adjusted for resistance. With free weights, you have to get out of your position to change dumbbells or to increase/decrease weight plates on the barbell.

Machines with fixed patterns are supposed to ensure correct movement. This is not always true. The machine may not match the body's natural movements or it may not have the necessary adjustments for your particular height and bodyweight.

Rubber bands

Since they don't weigh much, rubber bands are easy to bring when traveling. When looped around a doorknob, the leg of a heavy piece of furniture or a hook on the wall, you can do the many exercises or on a rubber mattress.

Rubber bands are appropriate for people who only need a level-up average strength levels. For those wanting a significant increases in strength and mass, free weights or machines are more suitable.

Doing rubber band exercises with a loose waist can cause carpal tunnel syndrome, a painful condition that occurs when normal pressure inside wrist and press structures.

Body weight

Push-ups, abdominal crunches, yoga and stair. Pilates are body weight exercises.

Body weight exercises can be done anywhere, as you don't need equipment. But some complicated positions may be needed to isolate muscles you want to work. It may be difficult to vary the intensities of an exercise since you can only change positions to increase/decrease.

There is almost no loss muscle resistance you can work with since you are relying on your own body weight.

Manual resistance

Manual resistance strength training requires few or no equipment (a rope, towel or pole may be used) but involves two people—a lifter and a spotter. The lifter performs the exercise while the spotter provides resistance by applying pressure with his/her arms.

For example, when doing a shoulder flexion exercise, the spotter stands behind the lifter and places his hands on the lifter's forearms. As the lifter raises his arms sideways, the spotter applies a downward pressure while allowing the lifter to lift the arms. In the final position, the spotter applies additional pressure.

With this system, the spotter can control the speed, form and technique of the lifter. More pressure can be applied in positions where the muscle is strongest and vice versa. The disadvantage is you need two people, who should both be trained in their alternating roles as lifter and spotter. They should also have similar strength levels.

Aqua

In water exercises, the resistance is all around you, the water makes you feel weightless even if you are overweight, and you of water feel cool. As you get stronger, you can increase resistance by using special equipment that creates a dragging effect so you move against the water.

The biggest disadvantage of this training is you need a swimming pool. Also, as the instructor cannot see well what you do underwater, it will be difficult to see if you're technique.

* * *

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines will hold a seminar for gyms and aerobics instructors on aug 7 at UP Diliman. Call 920-2702 or text 0917 Lets 2203.

Visit www.myspace.com/afpphilippines.

DR. Orlando Lim checks the teeth of a young patient in SM Megamall.

Dentists go on mall tour

THOUSANDS participated in Pfizer Consumer HealthCare's Colgate Dentalade Dental Tour recently in Old malls.

With a highly sophisticated intra-oral camera-linked computer images inside the oral cavity, dentists organized by the oral care category of Pfizer Consumer HealthCare conducted free dental checkups and gave advice on proper oral care in Old Megamall and Old wing in Baguio. Free dental checkups were also held in Mercury Drug branches in Greenhills Public Arcade, Festival Mall Alabang, Rustan's Cubao and Harrison Plaza.

The Tour reiterated the basic procedure for healthy plaque-free, tartar-free clean mouth—brushing, flossing and rinsing with a clinically proven antiplaque like Listerine. More and more dentists now recommend the use of antiplaque mouthwash since recent studies show that an average person brushes his/her teeth for only 46 seconds instead of the recommended two minutes.

Multiple oral hygiene lessons were given like Listerine Powder, Listerine Outdoor and Listerine Whitening. Listerine Mouthwash boasts of a 99.9 percent germ killing power than can reduce germs that cause bad breath, plaque and gingivitis.

DR. Maanel Tigano teaches a young boy the proper way to brush during a free oral care in SM Baguio.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Backward bend

STRETCHES the abdominal muscles and the muscles in front of the hips. A good counter-balance exercise for people who sit for long periods.

Exercise

1. Place your hands at the back of your hips.

2. Start leaning backward by gently pressing the hips forward. Elongate your spine so you lift your chest to the ceiling.

3. You should feel a mild stretch in the abdominal muscles and a mild pressure in the lower back area.

4. Hold for five to 10 seconds.

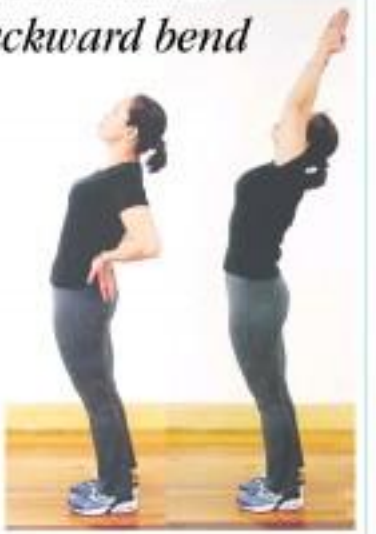
Performance tips

1. Instead of just arching the lower back, think of pressing the hips forward and lifting the chest to the ceiling.

2. Continue to breathe as you hold the stretch.

3. For a more advanced version, bring your arms overhead.

4. If you have any kind of lower back problem, please consult your doctor first before doing this stretch.



Gifted child campaign kicks off

WYETH Philippines, Inc. has launched its Gifted Children care paign with "The Seven Behind the Gifted Child", a month-long series of media appearances by some of the country's most celebrated "gifted" kids.

Gifted children will perform with R & B princess, Kyla. Also in Wyeth's Meaning Inspirations, people will get to know the stories behind the incredible talents of gifted children.

Wyeth, maker of the Pediflied Formula, has always pushed for the development of milk supplements for babies aged 6 months and older for formula is said to bring out the "gift" in every child.

Over the years, Wyeth Philippines, Inc. has helped develop and nurture gifted kids. Some of these gifted children include violin prodigy Janice Isaacs, concert pianist Britt Rapiquet, saxophonist Jacob Isaacs, and wonderkids Paulina and Pachelo Gutierrez and Bianca Lim.

Wyeth supports the Philippine Association for the Gifted.

The Wyeth Insights should be this month: Barefoot Island (GF, Circle), 9 a.m., Aug. 7, Mike's Blue Bird...2 p.m., Aug. 7; Mike's Glimpses, 10 a.m., Aug. 11; Mike's Restaurant, Bistro Gil, 9 a.m., Aug. 20; Bill Celya and Mary Bustamante, Circle, both at 10 a.m. Aug. 21; Bernie's Place at Almond Island Hotel, Bistro Gil, 2 p.m., Aug. 27; and Grand Regal Hotel, Bistro, 10 a.m., Aug. 28.

Call 9721140.